

## Library Board Minutes – January 12, 2026

Call to Order by Bob. Present at meeting: Bob Case, Richard Williams, Patience Jenkins, Emily Gold, Julius Rosenwald, Helen Olshever, Carol Shuey. Visitors (prospective new board members) Claire Cabiles, Bruce Wheat, Alyssa Irizarry, Linda Donigan, (new staff member).

Board Member introductions: Each board member briefly introduced themselves, followed by introductions by visitors.

Treasurers report: Richard read his report and reported a \$10,000 donation had just come in! We then looked at the 2025 budget, where we came in slightly under budget. We had a very successful fundraising effort and received some grant money, some of which was a delayed payment from 2024. The 2026 budget was approved at our last meeting and is expected to be more aggressive because of additional spending for salaries, programming and book buying. Richard noted that he used some of the 2025 money that hadn't been spent on a new laptop for Linda, and some new computer software, Deep Freeze, for heightened security to patrons.

Director's report: Emily's report contained good news regarding an increase of 17% in patron visits, and an increase in ILL use. Emily's Library Certificate will officially be completed in March/April. Also, the library was able to donate some books and materials to the Oak Hill Early Childhood Center. There were 5 programs hosted by the library in December. Emily's goals ahead are onboarding the new staff member, implementing a CLIF grant, finding out more about getting our Handicapped space implemented, and planning for the Tour de Pownal on October 3. Emily also noted that she is working closely with Tara at Town Hall to maintain a good connection with the Select Board.

Policy and Procedures discussion for Board applicants: Bob read the Mission Statement of the Library for the benefit of potential new board members. He also highlighted the responsibilities of the board: fundraising, community involvement, increasing the numbers of patrons and participation, and bringing our library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Richard read and distributed a statement of what being a Trustee involves, including attendance and participation at 8 meetings per year, plus joining a smaller committee to work on a variety of projects: fundraising, special events, policies and procedures, building and grounds, or being a member of the Executive Committee. It was stressed that we are a “working board” and not just a passive board. A few issues were discussed regarding how to make the library a more welcoming and diverse place, to bring more participation from the community and the more atypical patron groups.

It was requested that prospective new Board members go home and think about whether or not they are interested in joining the Board and then send an email to Bob Case expressing their interest (or lack thereof). Bob will forward the responses to current Board members to decide if applicants are a good fit.

Other Business:The next meeting will be on Monday, February 23, at which time we will be welcoming new members, electing new officers, setting up committees and working on new job descriptions for officers. Julius made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 which was passed.