



Board of Trustees Meeting
March 20, 2025
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m

IN ATTENDANCE: Sue Wade, Nick Hadden, Barbara Murphy, Patricia Bakir, Marti Sterin, Liz Griffin

ELECTION OF TRUSTEE OFFICERS

Chair: Barbara nominated Nick, who declined. Nick nominated Barbara, Pat seconded. All voted Aye.

Secretary: Barbara nominated Pat, Liz seconded. All voted Aye.

Treasurer: Pat nominated Marti, Nick seconded. All voted Aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2025 MEETING Minor edits made. Nick moved, Marti seconded and all approved. ick, then Marti second, minor edits.

WELCOME NEW TRUSTEE LIZ GRIFFIN

TREASURER'S REPORT

Update from on the current balance as of today:

Checking	\$ 828.28
Savings	\$ 6,784.28
Childhood Literacy	\$1,153.16

Nick moved, Pat seconded that we accept the Treasurer's report. All in favor.

Marti will look at info about available CDs for funding and discussion at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE No correspondence.

UPDATES

Follow up from previous meeting minutes:

Website update: 1 – Barbara did not meet with Elizabeth to work on updating the website because of the clear rules about trustees not allowed to volunteer in the library and because trustees should not be supervising employees. Sue just updated the internet account and it's easier to keep it up now and make it up to date. She will start on this, and work with Elizabeth on it.

Location of library files: 2 – We need to make sure we have a location in the library where we have all library files. There is one, but Pat will also ask Lisa Griswold, the former chair, to print up any relevant emails and obtain any other documents from her to add to those files. Pat will also ask about files from previous chairs.

Trustee-Librarian emails – Emails between trustees and with trustees and librarians are considered official meetings if there is more than just sending agenda, meeting minutes or documents to discuss at the next meeting. If any urgent decisions are needed, we need to organize an emergency meeting and give public notice. Added to these meeting minutes are the email from Sue Wade about the challenges with the ongoing construction.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING

2025-2026 Budget Update: The budget passed as part of the town budget. The Town Meeting went well, everyone is were very supportive.

Current Library Operations

The situation is not optimal. It's 1,000 steps just go meet people and escort them to the library, and then another 1000 to take them back! Parking is very difficult, often even our four parking spots are not available. Sometimes it's very dusty due to the construction.

As per Sue's email (attached to meeting minutes below), the meeting with the school and Clerk of the Works, Mike Bruso, was frustrating. No one acknowledged our agreement with the school management and construction team that we would move fully out of the library for 6 months in 2024 so that we could be fully operational in the school during the summer of 2025.

For follow up to that meeting, Sue has tried to be in contact with Mike Brusco who has not gotten back to Sue at all. She has asked a few questions, such as: "We assume we will be closed during the April holiday; how many how many weeks during the summer can we open; can we open at the end of the summer before school begins?". We have no recourse, no compensation and now that agreement is not being acknowledged.

Mike did inform sue that the air exchanger for the library does work separately from the rest of the school, so can keep library air clean. However, the library will be surrounded by construction. He has not yet told us if the library can be open during the time that they make the new front entrance to the library. We need their assurance that they will fully seal off the entrance area from the library when they do this work because after the previous construction and storage of books, some books in storage were destroyed and all books left in the library were dirty from the construction as they were not properly protected. The construction team and school management are not taking the needs of the library seriously.

Sue has talked to a Select Board member and Nick Nadue, the Temporary Town Manager about the situation. She will ask them to join her in a meeting with Mike Brusco and John Teague, the Superintendent.

After discussion about various options, the Trustees told Sue that the best thing is to use the room that will be provided by the Town Office for a pop-up library space for distributing books and holding some events. Sue also attends the Thursday coffee mornings and can inform people and distribute books at that time. We will also try to have the pop-up library open on Saturdays.

We will have to move out by June 12th. The library will have to expand its public relations to the local newspapers, posters, and other media in addition to Front Porch Forum, our website and Facebook page to keep patrons informed of activities and opportunities. We can educate people also on online use of library resources, as well as have special weekly themes for the pop up library. Books clubs will continue.

Financial management Sue has had some difficulty in getting confirmation from the Town Treasurer of whether bills have been paid or not. She is working on that with the Town Manager and Treasurer. We need to be sure that all payments are made promptly so they are charged to the correct year. We also need clarity on when our grant funding is paid, and that items are correctly allocated.

New Business

Federal cuts to library funding will opportunities for grants, but not day to day operating costs which are paid through the town budget. We need to keep in mind for a future agenda looking at alternate funding sources.

Budget and training – Lara has been doing online courses, most recently one related to people on the spectrum, which are very useful.

Meeting dates for the rest of 2025: April 17 (Joint Library Meeting), May 22, July 17, September 18, October 9 (Budget Meeting), October 16 (Joint Library Meeting) November 20, 2025

Trustee meeting management – Pat will in the future produce the draft agendas, send out meeting notifications and book meeting rooms. For the Joint Library meeting she will send invite to all of the School Board, Select Board, and all Trustees. The Chair and Secretary of the Board are voting members, but all can of course attend.

Adjourned 7:53 pm, with Nick making the motion, Marti seconding, and all agreeing.

Email

Fri, Mar 7,

Sue Wade

12:26 PM

to Barbara, Elizabeth, Nick, Pat, Marti, Lisa

Hi All.

I have copied this to Lisa, too, since she has been so involved.

First of all!

Welcome back Liz! I hope the rest of this email doesn't make you want to turn tail and run!

Barbara and I met with John Tague, Liz Noonan and Mike Brusco last night and were disappointed (to put it mildly) by their response to our requests.

I was surprised to learn that Mike Brusco thought that we were always closed when the school was closed. He also seemed clueless about the "be closed for one summer and you won't have to worry about being closed again" promise. That tells me something about the school's communication with him. That also means that he will probably be counting on us being closed during the April break, and probably some weeks during the summer.

Here's some of what we learned:

There will only be 4 parking spaces, but that's four more than we have now, so...

Because they will be "tearing the (single) boiler apart " during the summer, all water will be shut off - there is no way to zone it. There will be a portapotty but they won't guarantee that it won't be used by the construction workers unless we have a locking system - the ones I have been looking at online don't seem to have that capacity. The school did not assure us that they would fund this. Also, the school may not have janitors for the summer, meaning that we might be responsible for cleaning the portapotty. (We were responsible for our own cleaning in Georgia and that was okay) Barbara asked for a handwashing station, but I didn't hear them actually commit to one, but if we are doing the Summer reading program we will need some access to ways to clean up.

The exterior door won't be done until after school is out, meaning we will be ferrying people until then. And, as I'm thinking about it, it will be challenging to be open while they are cutting through the brick and masonry, with the noise and dust.

In fact, they said we will be an isolated little island in a vast sea of construction. The biggest push, with 300 workers, will be this summer - which makes sense if they want to be done

before school. They said it will be noisy and dusty, though they will try to seal off places that the dust might get in. Fortunately, the new air exchanger will still be able to be used.

Naturally, my workers are dismayed by all this news. Elizabeth, as a full-time employee, would be eligible for unemployment if we closed, but Lara, Noelle and I would not.

I wonder about getting the town involved, since we are fully funded by them, although, what can they do?

So - stuff to think about.

Our next meeting is the 20th at 6:30 in the town offices.

I will be happy to see you all there. Thank you all for being so supportive. It makes all the difference to know that you are on the Library's side!

Sue