



Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
April 9, 2025

I. Open Meeting:

The 04/09/2025 Alice M. Ward Memorial Library (AWML) Trustees meeting was opened at 4:00 pm by Nancy Petro.

II. Attendees:

Nancy Petro, Sharon Belleville, Gana Carr, Shellie Bresnahan, Cindy Smythe, Ron King.

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

A motion was made by Shellie and seconded by Nancy to approve 02/18/2025 AWML Trustee meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

None

V. General Public Comments:

None

VI. Building Maintenance/Concerns:

Paint scraping and repainting needed on some clapboards and dormers. We will be seeking estimates for the work needed.

The library had engineers visit the carriage house to assess the structural support status of the building and conduct a historical assessment with favorable outcomes. The architect, Ryan Edwards, was present as well for the visit and shared the most recent drawings of carriage house plans.

VII. Budget Review:

The February and March 2025 financials were reviewed. Shellie made a motion to approve the financials as presented and Sharon seconded. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Policy/Bylaw Review:

3 policies were reviewed:

Library Property Management Policy

Financial Management Policy

Cost Principles Policy

A motion was made by Shellie and seconded by Gana to approve the policies. Approved unanimously. Final copies will be signed at the May Trustee meeting.

An updated Library Collection Development policy will be ready for review at the next regular meeting.

IX. Library Activity:

On April 14th the library joins Canaan Naturally Connected in hosting the Golden Age of Hollywood Fashion Show at the American Legion. Fashions of the 1930's to the 50's will be presented following a luncheon.

There will be a felting program on April 30th. The program is filled with 15 enrollees. We hope to add a summer session for children that will be part of a summer reading event as well.

The library has been awarded the Paul Post Fund Grant once again and it will be used to bring back VINS this summer. Also, we have received the Grassroots Fund Seed Grant that we hope to use toward having wildlife biologist Will Staats return this year.

An Arts project Grant has been submitted through the Vermont Arts Council. We hope to receive funding to have the husband-and-wife folk duo, "Hungrytown" come in the fall to entertain.

Many community members, including students from Canaan Schools and residents of the Coos County Nursing Hospital, submitted paintings for the Tiny Art Show that was presented during the month of March.

A Mocktail Party was held at the library to greet community members and present the plans for the carriage house.

Cyndi visited the school and read to first graders and, with the help of her little friend Vincent Van Gogh, invited them to the library to see the Tiny Art Show. Students will visit the library in May for one last time before summer break commences.

Go Ask Alice book club met and discussed the book "Northwoods" by Daniel Mason in February. The book received mixed reviews. In March the book was "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion which received great reviews from almost all the attendees.

X. Ongoing/Future Goals:

Plans are progressing on the carriage house renovations. Interior design plans have been reviewed and the next steps discussed. Peder Rude joined the meeting by Zoom and shared next steps including upcoming submissions for grant disbursements.

XI. Other Business:

Ron has been making great headway weeding the fiction stacks.

Peder will be meeting with the town clerk via phone regarding documents needed to submit for grant money disbursements.

Playgroup has not been as well attended as it has in the past. Possible reasons discussed. Could be due to lack of consistent attendance on the group leaders part. Cyndi had a conversation with the group leader. Program will be reevaluated at the end of May.

XII. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Gana to adjourn the 04/09/25 meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Trustees will take place at 4:00 pm on 05/07/25 .