



Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
May 6, 2026

I. Open Meeting:

The 05/06/2026 Alice M. Ward Memorial Library (AWML) Trustees meeting was opened at 4:00 pm by Nancy Petro.

II. Attendees:

Nancy Petro, Kathy Smith, Sharon Belleville, Gana Carr, Shellie Bresnahan, Melissa Sheridan, Ron King.

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

A motion was made by Shellie and seconded by Gana to approve 04/01/2026 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:

Ramp end pillar on porch is rotted and needs to be replaced. Sally Fishburn, who did the window and door restoration for the library, will be contacted to request an evaluation and estimate.

Porch deck needs repainting.

VII. Budget Review:

April and YTD finances reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Nancy to approve the financials as presented. Approved by unanimous vote.

Zach has submitted bills to Peder for submission for reimbursement from the VT Libraries Grant.

VIII. Policy/Bylaw Review:

None.

IX. Library Activity:

Collection development is ongoing with efforts focused on keeping the collection current and updating and expanding outdated or underrepresented genres.

Several new books are on display.

The Canaan Schools 4th grade class visited on 4/1 for storytime. Students enjoyed the storytime and the opportunity to check out new books.

Kristen Langlas hosted a needle felting project for adults. 9 attendees completed their own unique mushrooms and enjoyed the class.

An art class for children was led by Michele Johnsen during spring break. 8 children participated, learning bookfolding and printmaking.

Go Ask Alice book club met to discuss the book "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout. Discussion revealed mixed opinions about the book. For the May meeting of book club, the book is "The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Melissa sorted and organized 342 books in preparation for the CLiF author visit in May at the school. Every student will be able to choose 2 books for themselves at this program.

11 new library cards issued in April.

Upcoming: Next week: Fashion show and lunch in conjunction with Canaan Naturally Connected (250 years of Colonial Fashion) June: VINS- Birds are Dinosaurs (theme to tie in with the Summer Reading Program)

X. Ongoing/Future Goals:

Continuing Carriage House Project

XI. Other Business:

Melissa is enrolled in the Vermont Department of Libraries Certificate of Public Librarianship program and will be beginning classes this month.

Patron user profiles were reset on the public computers. This process helps maintain performance, protects privacy, and prevents unauthorized software from being installed on computers. This process will be completed monthly.

Melissa has been updating and improving digital systems in the library.

Heating temperatures are being lowered at night. Data is showing that a cost savings has been realized without a negative impact on building comfort.

XII. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kathy to adjourn the MM/DD/YY AWML Trustees meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.