



Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
June 3, 2026

I. Open Meeting:

The 06/03/2026 Alice M. Ward Memorial Library (AWML) Trustees meeting was opened at 4:00 pm by Nancy Petro.

II. Attendees:

Nancy Petro, Kathy Smith, Gana Carr, Shellie Bresnahan, Melissa Sheridan, Ron King.
Not present- Sharon Belleville

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

A motion was made by Gana and seconded by Kathy to approve 05/06/2026 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:

Japanese Knotweed (invasive) is growing all around the library. Town needs to mow more to slow its growing and spreading. A community member has expressed concern. Shellie will bring the problem to Zach's attention so that he can inform the selectboard.

Melissa will be reaching out to Cindy for contact information to have the rotting porch column assessed for repair/restoration. Will also get advice regarding refinishing of the porch deck.

VII. Budget Review:

There is \$500 remaining in the programming budget currently.

Telephone is in Shellie's name (\$28.92/mo.). Shellie has been working on this, in the process of being resolved.

Gana talked about the historic preservation requirements. Vermont won't be open to reimburse funds until July. Kathy expressed that we need assurance that the contractor is approved by the state and we will be reimbursed for their costs.

Katherine Delano informed us that AWML will have to reimburse grant monies received if the carriage house project does not move forward. Ryan Edwards has completed the revised plans, and they are in the hands of the contractor. The contractor states that they will complete the work within the time requirements. A contract has not been signed yet. The trustees will meet with the selectboard to update them on the status of the project/contractor and move toward getting a contract approved.

A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Nancy to approve the financials as presented. Approved by unanimous vote.

VIII. Policy/Bylaw Review:

None.

IX. Library Activity:

A new Open/Closed sign and library flag are being installed to help clearly identify when the library is open and reinforce AWML's presence in the community.

The library had a good month. Two groups are coming in regularly.

New books arrived and more coming. Collection development is ongoing.

Preparations have been underway for the Summer Reading Program, "Unearth a Story". Promotional materials have been created and distributed, prizes have been ordered, and schedules finalized.

The "250 Years of Colonial Fashion" presentation, held in conjunction with CNC at the American Legion Hall, was well attended by approximately 40 community members.

Author and storyteller Michael Caduto provided a presentation at the school thanks to a CLiF grant. In addition to his program, students received two free books each.

Go Ask Alice Book Club met and discussed May's book club read, The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett. There were 12 attendees who all enjoyed the book itself and its connection to the spring season. The June book selection is "Travels With Charley" by John Steinbeck.

Canaan elementary school students from grades 1-4 visited the library for Storytime.

On June 6th the library is participating in Family Fund Day at the Colebrook Rec Center. The library will be hosting a game, providing information about the library and services available, and providing library card and summer reading program registrations.

In addition to the summer reading program, upcoming summer programs include a children's clay dinosaur workshop with Michele Johnsen on July 8th, a Vermont Historical Society presentation exploring a Vermont family from the 1880's on July 15th, and a VINS presentation, "Birds Are Dinosaurs" on August 29th.

X. Ongoing/Future Goals:

Continuing Carriage House Project

XI. Other Business:

Melissa has been working on her Certificate of Public Librarianship. She successfully completed two of the five required (core) courses during the previous month.

Melissa will continue using Google Workspace for software needs as Microsoft Office requires a paid subscription.

Melissa weeded the south side of the library building and the area along the front porch making the library appear much neater and inviting.

The library is looking into the possibility of partnering with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) to offer free tax preparation services at the library next year. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the program and determine if it would be feasible and beneficial for our community.

Executive Session:

Shellie made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing staff matters under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes. Second, by Kathy. Passed unanimously.

Executive session entered at 4:40 pm

Executive session ended at 4:50 pm

XII. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Shellie and seconded by Nancy to adjourn the 06/03/26 AWML Trustees meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Trustees will occur at 4:00 pm on 07/01/26.