



Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Board of Trustees

September 2, 2026

I. Open Meeting:

The 09/02/2026 Alice M. Ward Memorial Library (AWML) Trustees meeting was opened at 4:10 pm by Nancy Petro.

II. Attendees:

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

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion to approve minutes from the 8/12/26 trustee meeting was made by Shellie and seconded by Gana. Passed unanimously.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

None

V. General Public Comments:

None

VI. Building Maintenance/Concerns:

Porch column has been repaired.

When meeting with the architect and contractors, doing a walkthrough of construction, Haze discovered a section of the foundation wall is missing in the connector building between the library and the carriage house (this was missing previously, not something that has occurred during the current project). This has been discussed with contractors, with the expectation that the repair will establish a solid connection with the existing foundation and will keep water and weather out.

Trustees did a walkthrough of the carriage house to observe work completed. Progress is coming along very well. Trustees did question the ceiling light fixtures as pictured on the mockup from Ryan. Will discuss with him and decide soon on the lighting fixtures.

Computer maintenance was performed on the director's computer. Several malware programs were removed/resolved. The age/condition of the computer, and the circulation desk computer, were discussed. Replacement computers will be added to the budget list for discussion as addition to the 2027 budget.

VII. Budget Review:

YTD financials were not available for the meeting.

Grant status reviewed.

The invoice for the first payment to DHS was received and reviewed.

VIII. Policy/Bylaw Review:

None

IX. Library Activity:

The Summer Reading Program wrapped up with a final event held at the Canaan Schools gymnasium on 8/28 with a presentation by VINS. There were 38 kids enrolled in the program 13 submitted completed reading logs. All those 13 received a gift bag containing a new book and other goodies. The 2 top readers received a themed T-shirt and a gift card as well.

Go Ask Alice Book Club had ten attendees at the August gathering. The book, Bel Canto by Ann Patchett, was enjoyed by most of the group. The current book being read is The Art Thief by Michael Finkel. It will be discussed at the September gathering.

Ron noted that there has been an increase in the number of children's books being checked out by parents.

Melissa found a protective covering to apply to paperback books that will help to extend their lifespan.

The children's section was rearranged to locate Easy Reader books in one place rather than on opposing walls.

Six bookshelves in the adult fiction area were temporarily relocated to provide access to the hallway door to the connector building so that it may be replaced.

New books were ordered for both adult and children's collections.

Trunk or Treat was discussed. Melissa will not be available. Discussed who will participate for the library.

X. Ongoing/Future Goals:

Continuing Carriage House Project

XI. Other Business:

Haze Smith attended the meeting to get to know the trustees. He provided a summary of his first meeting with the architect and contractor. He noted a couple of things that need to be addressed; the missing section of foundation and a water problem around the foundation in the corner area outside where the connector building and carriage house meet. There are a couple of water damaged beams being replaced.

*See building/maintenance, Section VI

Melissa will be attending the NE Library Conference in October. It will be held in Burlington, VT this year.

XII. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Kathy to adjourn the 09/02/26 AWML Trustees meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Trustees will occur at 4:00 pm on 10/7/26.