

Quechee Library Trustees Meeting 2/9/2026 Minutes

Present: Dave Izzo, Treasurer; Sue Fosdick, Trustee; Anne Clemens, Trustee; Mark Bradley, Trustee; Erika Wetzel, Trustee; Debbie Marcus, Secretary; Michaela Lavelle, Library Director; Bob Hamlin, Observer

Tommy Bauch, President was ill; Sue Fosdick led the meeting, which opened at 5:01pm.

Public Comment: Bob H thanked everyone for continuing to do what we do for the library.

Minutes: Debbie reviewed one small change from the January Minutes which had previously been circulated. Anne entered a motion to approve the Minutes with the revision; Dave seconded. All approved.

Treasurer: Expenses through January are close to budget expectations. Donations received in late December boosted donation numbers above the whole year expectations by about \$1000. Booksale income is still good and the current total for that category is just a little less than the whole-year budget. He expressed thanks for the book sale organizers. The online banking account issue has been resolved. This did require an additional effort to re-input all of our vendors into the bank payment system, but did provide an opportunity to clean out old accounts. The second Town Appropriation check is expected in March or sooner. The next Quarterly Report will show whole-year budget figures. Erika entered a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Debbie seconded. All approved.

Library Director: In person stats were down in January, but the Overdrive (e and audio book) checkouts were the highest ever over the last two years. Four new titles were recently purchased (3 audio, 1 e) at a cost of \$280, with a 2-year expiration. Michaela expressed concerns about the high costs. The titles were selected based on patron holds and popularity.

Old business/updates: RestorEAZE will come this week to scope out the mold situation.

February's event schedule is busy. Dad Guild sponsored author talk with Kate Mangino on 2/11 at WCL; Cozy Book Club 2/11 at QPL; Feb break programming round a Dragon theme. 4:30 pm was chosen for programs to attract kids who are skiing, sledding, etc. Includes robotics and dragon crafts at both QPL and WCL. Adult workshop with Artist in Resident Carol McNamee on 2/19. 2nd Meet Your Neighbor will be 2/21.

The Bugbee Sen Ctr Library Days will start 2/17, hosted by both QPL and Hartford Lib. QPL's story time will move to 3:30pm on Wednesdays to attract an after school crowd, and the 10:00am time wasn't drawing any patrons. The morning story time at WCL still works fine. Erika offered to publicize the QPL change at school.

The Friends sponsored reupholstering of the leather chair seat cushions upstairs. They are considering supporting some children's room furniture updates. The QPL-WCL trustee contract needs updating, especially to shift rental responsibilities back to WCL trustees. QPL trustees are needed to work with WCL trustees. Anne volunteered. Michaela will not be able to run Poemtown in 2026, but hopes a new director will do it in 2027.

New things: On 4/17 all the Hartford libraries will co-host America 250 trivia at WCL in partnership with the Vermont Historical society. Michaela is completing the state annual report. She has applied for a summer programming grant for 2026 for QPL. The QPL exclusive theme will be Let's Explore with outdoor events and programming. QPL has been confirmed as the host site again this summer for CSAs.

The Asst Librarian has given notice for her departure at the end of March, citing that aspects of her job have changed beyond what she expected. Dave entered a motion to approve the Director's Report; Anne seconded. All approved.

Director Search and Staffing: The Director Search needs to be accelerated, especially since the Asst Dir will not be serving in an interim role. Sue suggested we hold off on advertising/hiring a new Asst Dir and let that be the first task of the new Dir. to build their own team. Debbie sought another trustee to join her and Tommy on the Dir Search team. Mark volunteered, and Michael will send him all materials to date. Michaela pointed out that health insurance subsidy should be included in hiring discussions. Dave will research health savings accounts materials.

Michaela advised that staffing for April is a worry. Chris's programming time is going to be squeezed. Michaela also advised that at least some overlapping transition time for the new hire would be key. Volunteers are covering the circulation desk during the day at QPL and WCL, but evenings require QPL staff. Chris may be willing to take more hours, George, as well. Michaela advised that the library is "minimally staffed as it is". Rhiannon is taking every other Saturday at WCL. Anne said that staffing responsibilities at WCL is something for the new Dir to resolve. Michaela pointed out that going back and forth between QPL and WCL is valuable for the Dir to learn how to understand and manage both locations.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2026

Motion to Adjourn: Entered by Dave; Erika seconded. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm

