

Quechee Library Association Trustees Meeting 8/10/26

Present: Tommy Bauch, President; Anne Clemens, Vice President; Davis Izzo, Treasurer; Debbie Marcus, Secretary; Mark Bradley, Trustee; Erika Wetzel, Trustee; Susan Fosdick, Trustee; Dena Marger, Library Director; Bob Hamlin, Observer; Karen Jessup, Observer; Pam Wischkaemper, Observer

The meeting came to order at 5:01PM. Introductions made all around for the benefit of the Observers present. Minutes of the 6/8/2026 meeting had been distributed previously. Anne C entered a motion to approve the minutes; Sue F seconded. All approved the minutes; no abstentions.

Public Comment

Pam W opened up conversation about new book acquisition and new books requested but so far undelivered, questioning the budget for Collections. David I indicated that budgeting for the Collection is currently more than sufficient. Karen J related her experience with new book requests, holds, and communication around these topics. Dena M reviewed a few of the challenges that coincided with her hiring in April as Director and acknowledged the slow delivery of new books patrons requested and how she is working to address this. Dena will follow up on a potential “waitlist” mechanism for new books. Patrons currently cannot request a hold until a new book is catalogued and shelved. Messaging to patrons can be improved. Standardized training for circulation desk staff and volunteers is forth-coming. All agreed this dialogue was a valuable contribution from the Observers.

Treasurer's Report

We still have not seen a bill for the wastewater line excavation, and there will be a few more bills for plumbing issues and paint supplies etc. to finish up in the basement.

The FY27 budget is under development based on previous expenditures and income and the additional staffing.

Typical revenue over the years, and even with an increase in the Town appropriation will not cover what is estimated for expenditures this fiscal year. In past years generous contributions have generally left us with a surplus at the end of each fiscal year. Donations have not been increasing as much as expenditures are and may result in a deficit this year. I have included a significant amount in

the budget for building repairs issues which added to the projected deficit. The addition of another .75 FTE to the staff has also increased the payroll expenses significantly.

The current bank balance should be enough to cover any deficit this year, but it is imperative that we generate more revenue in the future through fund-raising campaigns or grants. QPL is a small library which has been under-funded for a long time, with some staff working more hours than they were paid for. Repairs to fix the plumbing concerns have significantly impacted the bottom line. Additionally, snow plow bills for the winter of 2025-2026 were higher. A capital campaign to address the building repairs is a good step forward.

Sue F entered a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Anne C seconded. All approved; no abstentions.

Director's Report

Dena M has ordered copies of the Vermont Reads selection *Charity and Sylvia* provided by VT Humanities. They will arrive in November. Programming for the 2026 Vermont Reads title will follow in early December.

The new Library Assistant Isaac, will start 8/17/26. Onboarding will continue through August.

Dena compiled and provided circulation statistics and will maintain a format for this going forward.

The successful Summer Reading program wrapped up on Aug 4 and Aug 5 with well-attended programs at Wilder (Wonderful World of Bats) and QPL (Cake, certificates, T-shirts, local park rangers, and music by Tommy C).

Two youth summer volunteers worked with Chris this summer and have returned to school.

Anne C is working with staff to reorganize the children's space, weeding and organizing picture books and the A/V collection.

Anne is also helping with an overhaul of the basement storage room and junk removal.

Debbie M entered a motion to approve the Director's report; Erika W seconded. All approved; no abstentions.

Old/New Business

Lighting

Sue F reported on a future retrofit of the basement lighting fixtures. Donated funds will cover the retrofitted fixtures; Schaal Electric will provide services. The

new LED fixtures will be more energy efficient and save the library \$\$\$. The fluorescent tubes will be retired.

90 Day Review

Anne C and Tommy B completed the Director's 90-Day review and assessment. Another review will be held in 90 days.

QPL Friends

There will be a focus on Trustees - Friends relations. Development of a MOU is planned.

Public Access Tech

There have been frequent problems in getting patron-access printers and patron-access copiers to work properly. The equipment needs to be assessed and new equipment obtained if necessary. Proper instructions for usage must be available, and all staff and volunteers must be fully trained.

Building issues

Anne C reported on the various building issues. Jerm's Plumbing is scheduled for 9/8/26. T Hughes will come to fix the hot water in the main level bathroom. No one in the Town of Hartford seems to be able to locate the plans showing the existing wastewater connection to the town pipe. The sink in the basement level bathroom may be changed out to a "utility sink". The basement painting is nearly completed. Anne, Erika, and Debbie are wrapping up that project this week.

Next Meeting - September 14, 2026 5:00 pm

Adjourn: David I entered a motion to adjourn the meeting; Sue F seconded. All approved; no abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm.