

Quechee Library Association Trustees Meeting 9/14/26

Present: Tommy Bauch, President; Anne Clemens, VP; Dave Izzo, Treasurer; Debbie Marcus, Secretary; Sue Fosdick, Trustee; Mark Bradley, Trustee; Erika Wetzel, Trustee; Dena Marger, Library Director; Isaac Lorton, Assistant Librarian; Bob Hamlin, Observer; Karen Jessup, Observer; Jane Mernier Powell, Observer/Friends

The meeting opened at 5:02 pm. **Minutes** from the 8/10/26 meeting had been previously distributed. A motion to approve the Minutes was entered by Anne; seconded by Sue. All approved the Minutes, no abstentions.

Public Comment: No comments.

Treasurer's Report: For August 31, 2026 for FY 2027. The fiscal situation continues on the slow side for income, with expenditures about normal outside of the building repairs (bills still forthcoming). Beside the Town appropriation most of our income arrives in the Fall from our Annual Appeal and from book sales in the Fall and Summer.

The Town appropriation arrived in September and it is depicted as Income spread over all the months of the year.

The FY27 budget to date still reflects a deficit, and will until we receive some fundraising donations. It was noted in last month's report that donations have not been increasing as much as expenditures are and may result in a deficit this year. Building issues will also need to be funded. Tommy and Dave will meet with our Wells Fargo adviser near the end of this month. We will need a figure for the cost of the waste line repair and the best way to fund it.

Debbie entered a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Erika seconded. All approved the report, no abstentions.

Director's Report: Meetings are set up with staff, volunteers, Bugbee volunteers, and Nadine of Hartford Library. The Circ staff and volunteers will have their second quarterly meeting for training and process.

Dena will meet with Chris and Isaac quarterly to check in and to set and evaluate goals they are working on for their positions. For the children's staff, goals have been set in the following areas: programming and outreach, circulation, and collection and children's room. For the assistant librarian, goals have been set in

the following areas: onboarding, collection, programming, and promotion. Additionally, Dena will be meeting with staff every other week to discuss programming and issues related to promotion including program promotion, and promotion of the library via our website, our newsletter, and various other means.

Work continues on the downstairs room to rearrange furniture, shelving, and weeding the downstairs fiction and mystery fiction. Work also continues on the Children's Room to rearrange furnishings for better flow and organization of children's books and audio-visual resources. A large new book order has been placed.

Upcoming programming: Lego for all ages, Thursdays; Waldorf School on 10/2; Halloween event at Wilder; Friends book sale of vintage books 10/31. Wrensong Concert, 12/21; Vermont Reads events for Historical Fiction and Bugbee Book Club - grant application; Also a grant application is in the works for Arts & Music Programming in collaboration with the Upper Valley Music Center, with the hope to fund weekly activities for 1 year.

Sue entered a motion to approve the Director's Report; Dave seconded. All approved, no abstentions.

Friends

Jane Meunier Powell was introduced as the Friends representative who will attend Trustees meetings. Jo Alsopp is moving and will be stepping down as President. Friends' membership is dwindling and an effort to recruit new members is underway. A one-day sale of vintage and unusual books will be held 10/31.

Anne said that the Trustees will also have a representative to attend Friends meetings to establish closer relations. The Friends group is not a free-standing 501(c)(3). Karen J asked where the Friends money shows in the QPL budget and Dave explained. Anne and Jane listed what the Friends fund-raised for and spent \$ on recently: NYT Cooking online (now ending); repair of cushions for upstairs chairs; American flag repair; 2 new chairs, an area rug, and kid's reading circle for WCL - a big project; supplementing special occasions at QPL and WCL with food or a stipend.

New Business

QPL Building issues: Anne reported on the QPL building concerns. There will not be a new utility sink in the downstairs bathroom. Jerm's said a utility sink is

not ADL accessible, and is non-compliant. We will need to determine if both bathrooms must have ADL accessible sinks for QPL to be ADL compliant.

T Hughes has fixed the upstairs bathroom hot water.

Jerm's will return to fix the utility room water shut off valve.

We are seeking an estimate for new heater covers.

Beard Sewer and Drain of Claremont, NH examined the wastewater pipe problem. There are multiple breaks in 115' of pipe to the street, 13-15' underground where the previous excavation was done, just deeper than that equipment could reach. The recommendation is to encase the broken pipeline with a foam material that hardens. This would be done from the inside of the building with no further excavation needed outside. The cost would be about \$30,000 vs. over \$100,000 to excavate outside and replace the entire pipe. More information will be available at the October meeting. We may seek another quote.

Capital Campaign: Tommy emphasized the urgent need for a Capital Campaign to be separate from the Annual Appeal. We need a sub-committee to work on strategy and grant prospects. Possible sources were mentioned by Anne and Mark: grants, Vermont state building grants, banking institution community-directed grants, as well as our own capital campaign development and execution. Tommy will establish a sub-committee. Karen J offered to assist with grant proposals.

NYT print edition: Jake's Market has stopped its daily donation of the New York Times print edition. This was a company decision. QPL has several daily readers who come in precisely for access to the NYT. Dena will determine costs for a NYT print subscription. We may look for a supporter to fund this.

Introducing Isaac: New Assistant Librarian Isaac Lorton introduced himself.

Next meeting: October 5, 2026 5:00pm.

Motion to adjourn: Entered by Anne; seconded by Sue. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Marcus, Secretary

