

**Bennington Free Library
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes June 17, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Smith, Kelley Legacy, Norma McShane, Brian Cunningham, Jon Goodrich, Beth Tegart, Susan McKenna, PJ Venti, Wendy Sharkey (Director), Karson Kiesinger (Reference and Adult Services), Linda Donigan (Youth Services), Jim Sullivan (Select Board Liaison)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Munson, David Newell, Sarah Blizzard, Deirdre Ryan

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER (Bruce Smith)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- With no further discussion, minutes from the May 20, 2025 Board of Directors meeting were approved unanimously and moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

- Edward Lewicki, Risk Manager with The Richards Group, was invited to speak to the board about the Library's current insurance policy coverage (property/building/contents, general liability, business auto, worker's compensation, and Directors & Officers liability).
 - A full packet on the insurance program for the BFL was circulated for review.
 - The board requested further information and options to increase our deductible to lower premiums.
 - The board also requested a more detailed review of the Directors and Officers liability coverage; specifically, if \$1M was sufficient as the HVAC grant is for \$1.5M and if the policy reflected the structure and ownership of the Library clearly (i.e. Trustees and Board of Directors).
 - Ed will gather information and share with Wendy to review with the board in July/August.

FINANCE REPORT:

A. Annual Fund

- As of June 4, 2025, the Annual Fund gift balance was \$85,597; 142% of our 2024-2025 goal of \$60,000.

B. Revenue and Expense Reports

- The Revenue & Expense Report for May was circulated for discussion and reviewed.
- Wendy noted that the Library will end the fiscal year with a positive balance.
- With no further discussion, the Revenue and Expenses Report was accepted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: (full report circulated in meeting materials):

- Wendy met with the MAU CHOICE Club for a Youth Thrive meeting on (6/6).
- The Library staffed a table for the town's Pride Parade (6/14) and encouraged patrons to sign a 'birthday' card for the Library's 160th anniversary.
- Linda noted that we had a great turnout for Museum ABC's: Stitching the ABC's with 7 children and 6 adults participating.
- Karson shared information about an upcoming and exciting Stained Glass Workshop (6/21), hosted by Lisa Mendel, owner of Mendel's Stained Glass in Adams, MA, where attendees will make a glass mosaic with resin. The class is free and all 12 spots are filled with a waitlist.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Buildings and Grounds

- Bruce reported that the committee is focused on identifying where the new HVAC equipment would be located and collecting information on insulation solutions.
- Wendy reported that the Library received its first reimbursement from the State.

B. Finance Committee

- Kelley and Jon to schedule a committee meeting with the Bank of Bennington/Money Concepts Investments to review the Library's endowment.

C. Strategic Planning & Long Range Planning

- The board voted to table any review and next steps on drafting goals for the agreed upon Four Strategic Pillars: Community Engagement, Financial Futuring, People, Space & Physical Resources, until the July meeting when committee chairs (Deidre, Mike, and Sarah) could be present to lead the discussion.

D. Fundraising

- The Pop-Up Book Sale at MayFest netted \$377 - a respectable turnout for a rainy event.
- The Library purchased Q=150 new canvas tote bags with the 160th 'birthday' logo.

E. Nominating

- PJ publicly thanked Norma McShane for her commitment to the Library as she completed her 3-year term on the board.
- With vacancies on the board, members are asked to present possible nominees.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Save-the-Date for the Library's 160th year 'birthday' celebration on Monday, June 23rd at 3pm.

With no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE: (Third Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.)

- July 15, 2025
- August 19, 2025
- September 16, 2025

Respectfully submitted, PJ Venti