

**Bennington Free Library
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes April 21, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Smith (Chair), David Newell, Brian Cunningham, Jon Goodrich, Beth Tegart, Deirdre Ryan, Rebecca Sentner, PJ Venti, Wendy Sharkey (Director)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Blizzard, Michael Munson, Kelley Legacy, Jim Sullivan (Select Board Liaison)

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- With no further discussion, minutes from the March 17, 2026 Board of Directors meeting were approved unanimously and moved.
- With no further discussion, minutes from the April 7, 2026 Board of Directors meeting were approved unanimously and moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

- There were no public comments or presentations at the April 21, 2026 meeting.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND GRANT

- A draft contract was circulated and reviewed for Project 1 of the HVAC systems upgrades. Prior review for comment was attained from legal counsel, Jason P. Morrissey Attorney At Law, and from Centerline Architects & Planners and Naylor & Breen Builders. At the time of the April 21 Board of Directors meeting, the Library was awaiting review and approval by Ed Lewicki, Risk Manager, The Richards Group, on the recommended inclusion of a waiver subrogating clause.

Following discussion, the Board passed a motion to accept the contract as written with recommended revisions by legal counsel, including any additional minor changes that the Library Director recommends and/or approves. In the event that a major alteration is requested, the Board asked that the Director bring it to the attention of the full board for review and approval.

- A motion was made to give Signing Authority to 3 out of 5 Trustees on all contracts pertaining to the physical building, contingent upon the legal advice of general counsel. After a brief discussion, the motion was carried and approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board of Directors unanimously approved to welcome Anne Thomayer as a new board member. Wendy will formally extend the invitation and ask Anne to join the May 19 meeting.

- It was discussed and agreed to extend an invitation to Linda Donigan to join the June 16 end-of- fiscal-year Board of Directors meeting reception to celebrate her retirement and present her with a framed proclamation. Dave Newell will extend the invitation to Linda.

With no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned.

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

- May 19, 2026 - Full Board of Directors Meeting
- June 16, 2026 - Full Board of Directors Meeting

Respectfully submitted, PJ Venti