

**Bennington Free Library  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes May 19, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bruce Smith (Chair), David Newell, Brian Cunningham, Sarah Blizzard, Michael Munson, Beth Tegart, Deirdre Ryan, Rebecca Sentner, Ann Thomayer, PJ Venti, Wendy Sharkey (Director)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jon Goodrich, Kelley Legacy, Jim Sullivan (Select Board Liaison)

**WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER**

- Ann Thomayer was formally welcomed to the Board of Directors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- With no further discussion, minutes from the April 21, 2026 Board of Directors meeting were approved unanimously and moved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

- There were no public comments or presentations at the May 19, 2026 meeting.

**FINANCE REPORT**

A. Annual Fund

- The annual fund as of today's meeting was at \$86K, with average gift amount up though number of donors down from last year;
- Wendy will be reaching out to LYBUNTS with reminders;
- Board members were also reminded to make their annual gift by June 30th for 100% participation.

B. Revenue and Expense Report

- Wendy reported that we are on track for anticipated expenses and noted that HVAC expenses are not reflected in the April report as they are tracked separately;
- With no further discussion, the R&E Reports for March and April were approved unanimously.

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

- Erin is settling in well into her new position as Head of Youth Services;
- A robust schedule of programming and events is underway including a water resources event and a memory game event.
- Wendy reported that an assessment of the website and online catalogue has been carried out.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Long Range/Strategic Planning (Deidre Ryan and Kelley Legacy)

- A final report was circulated at the May meeting for review with a vote in June; the report will be made available on the Library's website once accepted.
- Wendy shared a technology list for review and consideration.

B. Finance (Kelley Legacy)

- No report.

C. Buildings & Grounds (David Newell)

- Dave will call a committee meeting to address the list of priorities.
- D. Policies & Personnel (Mike Munson)
- It was discussed that we need to review and catalogue all of our current policies as well as review both current and outstanding policies for updates and approval;
  - New policies needed for Social Media and Meeting Room use.
- E. Fundraising (Rebecca Sentner and PJ Venti)
- Rebecca researched the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grants and recommended that we submit an application for a program grant in next year's cycle (March 2027) for a paid internship pilot.
  - Wendy shared that the Library received Dr. Betts's gift supporting the Children's Reading Program; this gift will be added to the Library's endowment; a community reception will be held later this summer or early fall to acknowledge Dr. Betts's generosity.
- F. Friends of the Library (Beth Tegart and Deirdre Ryan)
- Ongoing exploration to build a list of volunteers continues.
  - Beth suggested a costume jewelry fundraising event to encourage volunteer participants.
- G. Nominating (Bruce Smith)
- No report.

**CAPITAL PROJECT FUND GRANT**

- A signed contract from Naylor & Breen Builders was received and we are now proceeding with a fully executed plan for Project 1 of the HVAC systems upgrades.
- A full schedule to be circulated in the coming week with a start date for early June.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- The Library will have a presence at this year's MayFest; Wendy is seeking volunteers.

With no further agenda items, the regular meeting was adjourned.

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

- June 16, 2026 - Full Board of Directors Meeting with end of year reception

Respectfully submitted, PJ Venti