Bennington Free Library
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Smith (Chair), David Newell, Brian Cunningham, Michael Munson, Beth Tegart, Jon Goodrich, Kelley Legacy, Rebecca Sentner, Ann Thomayer, PJ Venti, Wendy Sharkey (Director)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Blizzard, Deirdre Ryan, Jim Sullivan (Select Board Liaison)

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- With no further discussion, minutes from the April 21, 2026 Board of Directors meeting were approved by majority, with one abstention, and moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS
- There were no public comments or presentations at the June 16, 2026 meeting.

FINANCE REPORT
A. Annual Fund
    - The annual fund as of today's meeting was at $89,578, or 128% of our goal.
    - Wendy reported that we received many generous fiscal year-end gifts and that the outreach reminder to LYBUNTS proved worthwhile.

B. Revenue and Expense Report
    - Wendy reported that we are on budget for year-end and on track for anticipated expenses for the HVAC project; noting that we had received a reimbursement from the State.
    - The Betts endowment gift was inadvertently recorded under 'Gifts-Adult' on the R&E Report and should be recorded under 'Gifts-Children.' The adjustment will be made.
    - With no further discussion, the R&E Reports for May was approved with correction noted above.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS (full report circulated in meeting materials)
- Wendy and Karson attended a conference titled, *Radical Care*, on June 1st.
- An ice cream party was held for the Memory Games program.
- Volunteers have been hard at work to mulch and weed the Library's gardens.
- We are also looking forward to the ground-breaking of the Pollinator Garden on June 20–a project spearheaded by the Master Gardeners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
A. Long Range/Strategic Planning (Deidre Ryan and Kelley Legacy)
    - The 2026 Strategic Plan was approved unanimously and will be made available on the Library's website. Thank you to Deidre for their hard work completing the final report.

B. Finance (Deidre Ryan)
    - The committee will be meeting on June 17 with a presentation and recommendation from Money Concepts. All members of the Board are invited to attend.

C. Buildings & Grounds (David Newell)

    - We have received one bid for repair of the Main Street foundation, and are waiting for additional bids.
    - Dave noted that a recent ceiling leak after a heavy rainstorm uncovered that the gutters and downspouts were clogged and in disrepair, and eventually will need to be replaced. We need to comply with the Historic Preservation guidelines and will be seeking bids.

D. Policies & Personnel (Mike Munson)
    - Ann is reviewing our current policies for formatting and consistency and will be making recommendations to the committee for a standardized template and revision system.
    - Mike recommended that we draft an AI use policy for possible note taking of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes.

E. Fundraising (Rebecca Sentner and PJ Venti)
    - Wording for a plaque recognizing Dr. Betts's gift to the endowment was approved; a community reception will be held later this summer or early fall to acknowledge the family's generosity.

F. Friends of the Library (Beth Tegart and Deirdre Ryan)
    - Beth shared that a costume jewelry fundraising event will be held this fall during HarvestFest.

G. Nominating (Bruce Smith)
    - Ending Board terms and vacant Officer positions were discussed. The full slate of Officers will be voted on in September for approval.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND GRANT
- Project 1 of the HVAC systems upgrades have begun.
- It was noted that all change orders, regardless of if they fall within the contingency plan of the grant, need to be shared with and approved by the Board.
- Wendy reported that we will be submitting a proposal to the State for additional infrastructure projects (i.e. new boilers, condensers, etc.) by June 24 to use more of the grant funding available to the Library.

OTHER BUSINESS
- The Board formally thanked Linda Donigan for her service and retirement and thanked her with a framed proclamation.

With no further agenda items, the regular meeting was adjourned and a year-reception was held.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE: (Third Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.)
- September 15, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- January 19, 2027
- March 16, 2027
- May 18, 2027
- June 15, 2027

Respectfully submitted, PJ Venti