

**Salisbury Library Board Meeting
February 17, 2025**

Board members present: Alison Metcalfe, Janet Mosurick, Kate Williams, Deb Brighton, Chris Naylor (zoom), Gay Truax

Staff Present: Alissa Shethar

Board members absent: Peggy Cox, Kathy Clarke, Sam Smith

Guests: Willie Jansen

The meeting convened at 5:15pm

Secretary's report:

Motion to approve minutes for 1/20/24 made by Alison, seconded by Janet, approved unanimously. Alissa will record and post after this meeting.

Treasurer's report: 33 weeks into the FY income is at 92% of budget, operating spending is at 58% of budget, and grant spending at 39% of funds available. Annual Appeal stands at \$4,002.74 with 2 new donors for a total of 58. Alison reported on how our Technology expenses have increased this year to over \$800 vs. budgeted \$400, due to new required software and new billing system for Windows (monthly vs. one upfront payment). This will necessitate increased allocation from the town in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Also, the Town omitted the library budget from the Town Report by accident, will need to be corrected before Town Meeting.

Motion to approve treasurers report made by Janet, seconded by Deb, approved unanimously.

Library Director's report:

Busy with Story Hour group which is getting bigger and thriving under volunteer leadership of 2 moms. Medicare info. Session very good, 4 attendees. Tech classes: first one scheduled Tuesday Feb 18. Discussion of best dates for future classes. Thursdays better for Alissa. Alison suggested Tuesdays at 4 as a possibility. Book club unfortunately conflicts with Energy Navigators on Thursday 2/27. Board members encouraged to attend the latter if not in Book Club.

Alissa has also been busy deaccessioning DVDs & audiobooks so they can be sold or given away, working on grants to help with moving expense, and continuing work on her VT Library Certification.

Motion to approve Director's report made by Janet, seconded by Alison, approved unanimously.

Old Business.

Report on 1/28 Select Board meeting: this went very well. Select Board agreed to turn over Town Hall maintenance budget to fund church utilities expenses incurred by library, and to moving expenses. Select Board also agreed to grade parking lot area for storage pods, and look into electricity supply for pods.

Computer classes: see under Library directors report

New Business.

GMLC & billing update: Alison reviewed what she has learned about how ebooks system works. She will prepare a handout for next meeting. Libby is the basic mechanism for accessing ebooks. GMLC is the statewide platform for ebooks & audiobooks, and there are wait lists. Overdrive is a commercial company that gets books more timely, but there is expense involved.

Program ideas: Abenaki sign maker presentation, Alissa will work on a Sunday date when the Book Group could come in for this presentation. Alison has set up a program about dogs that can detect invasive insects for Aug 2. Other suggestions: the polio epidemic of the 1950s—Kate will ask John Dick who kept a journal of this time. Green Burials. The ins and outs of finding a nursing home. A program on library offerings & how to access.

Photo record of library before renovation: Suggested Kathy Dick might be willing to do this—Kate will ask her. Becky Holmes also suggested.

Renovation plan update: Heating system not finally decided on yet, but GMP may give up to \$8K toward a premium system. Complicated bidding process because grant requires all materials to be US made. Uncertainty over costs due to tariff threats. Chris advises to take time to get quality contractor.

Library furniture decisions: Moving Forward group will work on this next week. Alissa will call Ilsley to see if we could use their book boxes. Piano was evaluated and could be made functional for under \$1K. Suggestion to ask for a sponsor for piano at Town Meeting.

Plans for Town Meeting Day:
Deb will get poster of floor plans for renovation to post at meeting.
Handout outline for library presentation shared.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Next meeting Monday March 17 at 5pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Williams

February 17, 2025 Library Director's Report

Library goes on.... We have loads of **new books**, regular visitors, and have been doing special deliveries to patrons who are laid up. Use of the new computers and printer is growing. Due to weather, the library has been closed on two Thursdays, but I'm still hoping some knitters out there will show up and knit with me.

Programming

- The **Story Hour** group continues and has gained new members. The two volunteer leaders are doing an excellent job of creating a welcoming and flexible structure. I would like to buy more juice for the group at some point- they still have plenty of snack.
- We had a fine **Medicare Info** morning on Saturday, with four of us showing up with questions.
- Our first **Tech Night** is Tuesday, with Anne Murray teaching us the basics of **Windows 11**. Please come if you can, and bring people! I've advertised at all the usual outlets. I know it is not ideal, but Anne would like to continue teaching on Tuesday or Thursday nights in March. She cannot teach on weekends. I would prefer Thursdays myself, as it makes my Tuesdays very long to stay after my usual 8 hours for the class. She's proposed March 11, 18th and 20th for the next class. Next class is **Intro to the Mac**, then **Iphone**. We need a teacher for **Android** and **Avoiding scams**. I could do the latter, and have someone in mind for Android, but if you know a teacher with experience teaching these topics, let me know.
- I know a lot of you will be at **Book Club** on the 27th and Kathy Dick and I tried to avoid the conflict. But please consider coming to our **Energy Navigators** event on the 27th if you are not going to Book Club, cosponsored with the Salisbury Conservation Commission.

Collections

- Much of the work that goes on at the Library is not always obvious to the naked eye! I've been putting in a lot of time deaccessioning the audiobooks and DVDs—officially removing them all from our catalog— so that patrons and other libraries don't try to borrow them. All 500 or so have been removed from our catalog now.
- Rockingham library will pick up what's left of the DVDs at the end of this month, so if you want any of them, now is the time.

Grants

- Alison, Deb and I have our eyes on two grants that would help with moving and renovation expenses: a Vermont Community Fund grant and one from the Manson Foundation. I've been working on a draft for both. And trying to make sure we get our PLA money. Hopefully we will succeed on all fronts.

Professional Development

- I just finished the last 25 hour segment of the required curriculum for the VT Library Cert. I still have to do some elective hours, but hoping to get through before this year's conference.

Movies- News

- VLA has announced that Vermont is **ending its relationship with Swank**, which provided public libraries with the license to show movies. So... for now, no more movies, unless we work with the filmmakers themselves. I've been talking to some independent filmmakers who made a film about market women in Haiti, and hope to show that before we move.