

August 17, 2026 Library Director Report

Library goings on— Things have been busy! More kids have completed **reading challenges** this summer than at any time in my three summers here, and they loved the prizes. We have a new **Tech Guru, Kiley Benner**, who will start in September. Tuesday **Storytime** has been sparsely attended, but kids have started coming to the library to play and read at other times too. We are also going to start having **Crafternoons** (finally), one Thursday afternoon a month. Stephanie will lead a short course in crochet and one in spinning, in response to patron requests.

Grants and Reporting—

- **Pilcrow Grant** report has been submitted.
- **Libraries Transforming Communities** report has been written, but needs update from tomorrow's Community Disability Conversation, the first of two.
- We qualified for free books and a solar lantern from **Energy Detectives** which should arrive soon.
- Working on a **Vermont Community Foundation** grant for a new curtain, portable floodlights and bookshelves for upstairs- thanks to Alison for the tip.
- Our **CliF event** will be at Lake Dunmore with Doug Wilhelm on **Sept. 5th**.
- We still have **\$350 in summer programming money** that needs to be spent. We do not really need books, thanks to the Pilcrow grant— may I suggest we spend the money on shelving or furniture for the new children's room? A children's event would be great, but there is not enough time to arrange another event for this summer. Any other ideas?
- As you may know, we were approved for the **EV grant**.

Addison County Field Days- This year, the librarians of Addison county hosted a booth, something Ruth has been trying to get off the ground for a few years now. While no one came from the 'big boys' (Ilsley and Bixby), the smaller libraries were all there, and our booth was busy and fun. We gave away lots of books, bookmarks, temporary tattoos and so on, and talked to lots of kids and their parents.

Gratitude— My gratitude to **Willie Jensen** for going above and beyond with taking the trash and recycling—not just ours, but the church's as well. I would also like to express deep appreciation for **Travis**, who has been putting in hours shelving books out in the pods on Sunday afternoons. With the huge influx of

books from Jack Beasley and Pilcrow, we did a big reorganization in the basement and put a lot of the older books out back. There is still lots to do, and I come on Sundays to help when I can. We hope to have everything organized and alphabetized before we have to repack it all for the move back.

Swag/Merch- It's here, and the mugs and bags look great. We are saving it for our 125th Birthday party in October, but I already snagged 2 mugs for myself, and a mug or a bag can be yours for a \$10 donation to the library.

Upcoming events—

- 8/20 1pm Decoupage with Mirjam
- 8/20 6 pm Salisbury Community Cooking Club with Gay
- 8/27 5:30 Book club
- 9/3 Tech Night with Kiley Benner
- 9/5 11 am CliF event with Doug Wilhelm at Lake Dunmore
- 9/26 Mushroom Walk at Lake Dunmore with Midd professors Daniel Lyons and Andrew Swafford- **is there a trustee who would like to be the library rep on this walk? I will be out of town.**

Newsletter—

Feedback has been good! In response to feedback, future editions will include book reviews, perhaps a cartoon and more photos.

Sustainable Library Certification Update—

The Certification process has been rather time intensive, but we are making progress. I've completed the Getting started, Outdoor spaces, Indoor spaces, Transportation, and Materials sections- that's 91 Modules! We need to be back in the Town Hall to do the work required for the Energy and Water sections, since a lot of that will be use monitoring, and should reflect our new systems. I am hoping to set dates for the community conversations required for Collective Impact and Social Cohesion in the winter which will put us in good shape to finish our certification next spring some time.

Finally: At least one patron has written thank you letters to HOPE for the veggies. I think this is a great idea! Let me know if your someone you know would like to write one.

Salisbury Library Board Meeting
August 17, 2026

Board Members present: Alison Metcalfe, Deb Brighton, Gay Truax, Kate Williams, Kathy Clarke, Lisa Durst, Chris Naylor, Janet Mosurick, Sam Smith

Staff present: Alissa Shethar

Call to Order 5:02pm

Secretary's Report: No corrections or changes. Motion to approve minutes for 7/20/26 made by Janet, approved unanimously. Minutes to be recorded and posted.

Treasurer's Report: Income in past month was \$3,500. Received refund for air conditioner finally. Purchased swag to introduce at 125th anniversary celebration (mugs and book bags). We will request a \$10 donation for each. ILL courier grant from last year has been spent down. \$50 membership sent to Sustainable Libraries will be refunded to us. Alison thanked Alissa for all the hours she is putting in! Janet reminded us about the Neat Repeats program where purchases are credited to the library, Alissa will put on Instagram. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Gay, approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

Alissa has found a free alternative to MailChimp (Beehiiv) and will be trying it out for this month's newsletter.

Conversation held at Andres' on accessibility issues in the Town Hall prior to renovation. The front doors and the steps were discussed, the walk along Prospect especially in winter.

The recycling policy for Sustainable Libraries was reviewed. This will be in our records as a guide to best practices rather than a formally adopted policy. Items currently recycled include ink cartridges, bulbs, batteries, paper products, pens, bottles, cans, plastic film & plastic packaging. We are making good progress toward our Sustainable Library Certification, though we will have to wait to be back in the Town Hall before we can accurately monitor Library energy and water use, and we will begin composting food scraps once we have a kitchen & garden. Alison motioned to accept the guidelines, approved unanimously.

Second Anonymous donation from Cornwall family has been proposed!

Board members are encouraged to attend upcoming events: Decoupage, Cooking Club, Tech night, CLiF event and Mushroom walk. Kathy volunteered to be the Library rep on the Mushroom walk on 9/26

Motion to approve librarians report by Janet, approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Communications report and newsletter. Lisa reported establishing a routine with the newsletter and postings on Front Porch Forum.

Oct 3 "Save the Date" is in the works.

Newsletter—Carol Peters suggested items to include—book recommendations, book reviews written by library clients, historical quizzes, and more pictures.

125th anniversary planning: Start time of 12 noon was decided. (*This was changed to 11am after the meeting, to accommodate Ruth Hardy's schedule.)

Speakers—Alison to ask Ruth Hardy, Glenn has agreed to speak on History (provided he is well enough)
Swag items mugs & bookbags to be sold.

Cake and apple cider—Gay and Chris

Charcuterie board—Gay and Alissa

Kids' activities—Gay will contact her friend who does bubble entertainment. We may need a tent outside to accommodate this. Alissa will ask Scott Robinson about this.

List of volunteer opportunities has been updated to reflect our needs before and during move back.

Historical photos for a display—Alissa and Kathy, will also ask Kathy Dick to help.

Suggestion to issue special invitations for Oct 3-- After discussion a compromise was agreed, where board members should call people they specially would like to attend, and issue a personal invitation.

Fundraiser Subcommittee: Shelved for next month

New Business:

Gratitude: Kate thanked Deb for all the hours she continues to put into the Renovation project. Alison Thanked Alissa for helping sort out the Vermont Bookstore account issue. Gay thanked Alissa and Lisa for their help with planning the Cooking Club.

Preliminary consideration of move back to Town Hall: A subcommittee will be formed to plan our move back. Janet, Alissa, Alison, Deb and Kate volunteered for this. Some of the issues will be: painting needs to be done before we move back, furnishing for the Childrens Room TBD (State needs to know what grant money will be spent on), arrangement of bookshelves in new space on 1st floor, contact Chris Hadley for help with hanging historic curtain, replace yellow stage curtain, resolving issue of where historical society will be located.

Renovation update--Deb

Deb and Kate looked at inside of Town Hall and recommend that the color scheme upstairs should be continued down the stairs and into the lobby downstairs. This would replace the existing dark brown. The teal and offwhite should remain in the downstairs library space and in the new bathroom. The painter is getting a cost estimate for painting the 1st floor ceiling for us, as well as the stairwell from second floor which both need professionals for safety reasons. Front doors inside surfaces to match the lobby.

Historic curtain hooks to be moved closer to front of stage by one ceiling tile width, to provide storage shelves on back wall.

Two first floor front windows will not have shutters but will let in light. Translucent curtains an option to conceal stairs.

Front door: 2 options 1) a removable middle pole to allow wheelchairs. 2) A bolting system that would eliminate need for middle pole. Option 2 would cost approx \$5000. We could apply for another grant for this, or possibly use endowment money. Deb will request exact cost estimate

Garbage removal this fall: Willie has gone above & beyond taking care of this for us all summer. We will develop a schedule for board members to do this at September meeting.

PCP recording session: This is planned for Thursday Sept 17, and will require absolute quiet. The library has agreed with Jenny Beck's request to close that day. Library hours including closing Sept 17 to be posted in newsletter.

Next meeting Monday September 21 at the library.

Motion to adjourn made by Kate at 6:50pmpm, unanimously approved
Respectfully submitted,

Sam Smith & Kate Williams