

Salisbury Library Board Meeting
March 16, 2026

Board Members present: Alison Metcalfe, , Deb Brighton, Gay Truax, Kate Williams, Kathy Clarke, Lisa Durst,

Board Member absent: Chris Naylor, Janet Mosurick, Sam Smith

Staff present: Alissa Shethar

Guest present: Willie Jansen

Call to Order 5:10

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve minutes for 2/16/26 made by Kate, approved unanimously. Minutes to be recorded and posted.

Treasurer's Report: Investment account at is at \$20,605. We have spent down all grant money for moving, & will now need to fund rent, move back etc. from our regular budget. However, we have \$\$ left in our current budget. Can apply for Neat Repeats grant again in fall. Motion to approve Treasurers report by Gay, approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

We received ALA \$10K grant for handicap access etc.! It will be direct deposit, much easier for Alison. We are required to hold a community conversation about accessibility challenges as a condition of this grant, Alissa suggests sending out a survey with the annual appeal.

Also received summer programming grant, & checking out EV charger grant. A garden committee, Kathryn, Higbee, and Kathy will look further into Janet's suggested Middlebury Garden Club grant & creating a new garden behind Town Hall. Merle Schloff has suggested a pizza oven at back of library. It would also be nice to have a pollinator/water garden there. Motion to approve librarians report by Alison, approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- Renovation update: Contract is signed! Work to begin estim. April 1. Deb shared list of items not in scope. After review, prioritization was decided upon:
 - #1 Heat pump in furnace (covered by grant \$\$\$)
 - #2 New ceiling downstairs (need an estimate)
 - #3 Lights upstairs
 - #4 Floors. We have estimate of \$15K for upstairs replacement. Downstairs can be sanded & refinished. Some steps need replaced
 - #5 Leadproofing prior to interior painting is at least partially Funded. Painting could be done by volunteers, Gay knows some.
 - #6 Kitchenette. Plumbing will be there, but needs outlets. Possibility of one wall counter with sink. Hannaford Career Ctr build?

Millwork downstairs in kids room, and bookshelves/windowseats, can be tackled later

Exterior painting falls under Town maintenance, not renovation.

Need for interior designer to plan kids room? Need estimate for ceiling replacement—from Silver Maple? Any uses for antique sink from kids room?

- Groundbreaking/Breadbreaking—Deb shared Silver Maple and other contractors are eager to meet with town, board and renovation team—plans discussed.
- Lisa shared detailed report on publicity activities and progress. Lisa will attend 3/25 FPF webinar. Alissa plans to have one on one meeting with Ruth to try to finally resolve FB problem. Re-usable signs for SFPL events to be purchased from Little Pressroom. Once email list is developed a group email will be sent explaining to patrons the issues with Libby & ebooks. Motion for \$100 more for publicity budget by Kate, approved unanimously.
- f/u on ICE etc. requests for info: Both town and church allow safe space signs and flyers in library.

New Business:

- Gratitude: Deb to Kip for dismantling the big table upstairs in TH.
- Sustainable Libraries Initiative: Alissa developing a policy and new job descriptions for herself and Travis which support the initiative. More on this next meeting.
- National Library Week activities. Lisa, Gay, Kathy & Alissa are busy planning this. Lisa shared list of activities. Art & Chocolate will be held separately at a date TBD.
- Discussion of Garden grant tabled for next meeting.
- Monthly Art Show—Kathy would organize. Various issues were discussed such as insurance, whether artists could sell works, how to pay. Kathy will work on a policy/guidelines for artists. Kathy made a motion to proceed with plans for art show, approved unanimously.
- Discussion of wheeled cart and configuration of renovated space tabled for next meeting.

Next meeting Monday April 20 at 5pm.

Kate motioned to adjourn at 6:56pm, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Durst & Kate Williams

March 16, 2026 Library Director Report

Library goings on—Things have been quieter in the library, but we have gotten a lot done. I moved a some older fiction back to the pods and pulled some not so old and still circulating books down. I took ridiculous pleasure in taking out the snow ❄️ and winter 🧊 related picture books, putting them in the pods, and bringing down the SPRING 🌸, Easter 🐣, sunny ☀️ flower-filled 🌺 stories.

Alissa's hours

While it looks like I've been working fewer hours outside of the library, I have been doing a LOT of library classes for credit with the Vermont Library Association and learning a lot of useful things. In the middle of a six session class on supporting families with early literacy put on by the Stern center which is really good. Planning to graduate this spring. I've also had a bunch of doctor's appointments at UVM, and Travis has been great about switching shifts with me so I can do that.

Grants and Reporting

I can now announce that we were awarded an **American Library Association Libraries Transforming Communities** grant for \$10,000! It was written to pay for the handicap accessible ramp, parking space and front stairway. As part of the grant conditions, we are required to host an "accessible community conversation" where we talk about accessibility challenges in Salisbury.

We also got the **Summer programming grant**- this year's theme: Unearth a Story.

We are still waiting to hear about the **AARP** grant and **Tmobile** application.

I am hoping to write a joint grant with the "Friends of Ann Story" - which would get us I hope, money for a few more books about Ann Story.

We've also talked about a **Middlebury Garden grant**- see below.

Programming

Tech night was NOT well attended this month- Louis forgot to come and no one else showed up. And Sam did a very nice presentation about using Facebook for me and Lisa. We are hoping to do it again if we can get more folks to come.

The programming theme for spring is going to be: **Sustainability**. (Partly because we are required to do some programming on this topic.) Our first class is going to be with Mirjam Brett on making your own non-toxic, but effective, household cleansers. We could hold a **repair and reuse fair** at the library if we can generate enough interest.

Preston will offer his **Bluebird making class** on 3/28.

Future Garden and Garden committee

Janet suggested we apply for a Middlebury Garden Club Grant, for up to \$2,000, and the timing is perfect. We need to come up with a 'sustainability plan' for the landscape around the town hall. I know there's not much "landscape" and we don't know if we will have the same area we've had for flowers in the front. (I hope we do.) But it would be a good time to put in a pollinator friendly garden in the back- or something like that if we want. Other libraries are doing 'historic gardens' to celebrate 250 (or 125) years, and many libraries do

'rain gardens' which are designed to filter run off and grow beautiful flowers. Kathryn Schloff and Higbee have expressed interest in taking on this project and would like Kathy Clarke to join them.