July 20, 2026 Library Director Report

Library goings on—Veggies are back, and we are starting to get more folks coming in to get them early on Thursdays. ILL books are coming in and going out at increased volume. The leather-bound Beasley books are now all cataloged, and I'm almost cataloging the Pilcrow books. I would love **help covering them.** Travis and I have started on a big 'reorg' project in the pods, as we try to find space for more books. I am planning to put most of the JV books that are currently in the church basement into the pods to make way for the fabulous new books. Our JV readers, though they are few, have read most of what's in the basement. The desiccant is working, though we have to revive it every time we are there.

Grants and Reporting
Big thanks to Deb for sorting out the details for the EV charger estimates with the two Chrises. Some of the work will be part of the main renovation project, and we don't need to upgrade the electrical panel beyond what is already planned. We have submitted our application, and it shouldn't cost the town more than the $500 they already agreed to.

I will be writing reports for Pilcrow and the ALA grants this month- both the Sustainability Grant (paying for the upstairs heat pumps) and the Transforming Local Community Grant (which pays for the handicapped ramp and parking spot). We need to have a **Community Disability Conversation** in August. I would love some help figuring out the best way to get the word out to **folks with mobility challenges** who would want to come or would have useful info for us.

Annual Appeal, Survey, and Newsletter
We've gotten a strong response from the appeal so far. Alison can tell you about the financial side, but it looks very promising to me! Not everyone who sends a check fills out that survey, but I've been collating the responses as they come in and we have gotten some interesting feedback. I will have more on that- pie charts and results- when we have more and can combine web and paper responses.

Programming
The kids have been tearing through **Summer Reading Challenges,** and I've given out several ribbons for Addison Field Days as well as dinosaur-themed

prizes. The first **Salisbury Community Cooking Club** was a great success, I thought- and certainly very tasty! **Thank you Gay.** We have some upcoming events—please help getting the word out.

- **July 26th,** and E-bike, e-trike and adaptive bicycle event with **Rad Innovations.**
- **August 16th, a dowsing demonstration** (thank you Alison for making that connection!).
- **August 20th, Decoupage with Mirjam Brett.**

FYI: Your librarian has been a bit distracted lately by the World Cup! Now that it's over, she can focus again.

Finally: We should do something special to celebrate our 125th Birthday!

Salisbury Library Board Meeting
July 20, 2026

Board Members present: Alison Metcalfe, Deb Brighton, Gay Truax, Kate Williams, Kathy Clarke, Lisa Durst, Chris Naylor, Janet Mosurick
Board Member absent: Sam Smith
Staff present: Alissa Shethar
Guest present: Bill Casavant

Call to Order 5:00pm

Bill Casavant presented proposal for kitchenette on 2nd floor of Town Hall. Cabinets found by Chris and transported here by Tanner Romano will fit the space perfectly. We still need to obtain a 24" wide refrigerator, and a counter. Board opted for a hand operated paper towel dispenser. Kate will write thank yous to Bill and Tanner.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve minutes for 6/15/26 made by Kate, approved unanimously. Minutes to be recorded and posted.

Treasurer's Report: The annual appeal has got off to a good start with $2,530.00 so far. For the fiscal year, income was over budget and expenses under budget—"very satisfactory"! Janet motioned to approve the Treasurers report, approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report:
The electric charging station will be funded by a state grant, & part of work is within renovation project. Cost to town will be no more than $500. Thanks to Deb for working out the details. Kate will inform neighbors (Sheehan, Schloff and Andres) about this project out of courtesy.
The Pilcrow books were on display, high quality hardbacks. Volunteers willing to help cover with mylar should contact Alissa about Tuesday or Thursday afternoons.
Alissa reported that survey results are coming in slowly, and are often incomplete, making it hard to tally & compare them. Alison reminded that annual appeal responses keep coming in through Christmas.
Tech night needs a new instructor, Alissa has a lead on a Middlebury IT professional.
Some comments indicate patrons love the newsletter, come in mainly for books and socializing.
Frequent barrier is use of digital services.
Motion to approve librarians report by Alison, approved unanimously.

Old Business:
Communications report and newsletter. Lisa had several suggestions for improving attendance at offerings:

Advertise on FPF several weeks ahead, follow up a couple of weeks ahead, and send out final short reminder a few days ahead.

Use multiple people for the postings.
"Like" the FB and social media posts, this gives them more visibility.
Create event planning worksheet for events with timelines for advertising.
Items for newsletter should be sent to Lisa by July 24 to get in August 3 newsletter.
Short form of newsletter seems to be very successful.
Need a photo of the story walk showing the woodsy environment!
Need to correct MailChimp account so sender is Alissa not Ruth

Dinner Club report: Gay reported the first meeting was very successful, with 9 attendees, who paid >$100 in fees. The menu was charcuterie. Gay thanked Alissa for providing the cheeses and for her presentation about them. Day of the week for this monthly event not firmed up yet. Gay wants this club to be very participatory, with attendees making decisions about future menus, and also revisit the fee esp. if participants bring the ingredients.

New Business:

Gratitude: To Gay for introducing the dinner club, a very fun community series. To Bill Casavantes for going above and beyond to help us get what we need in renovation. To Alison our numbers queen. To Chris for finding the perfect cabinets for the kitchenette.

Library 125th anniversary celebration: After much discussion pro & con, it was decided to separate this anniversary celebration from the re-opening of the Town Hall.

October 3, Saturday was set as a date. The following ideas (thanks to Lisa!) were adopted for this celebration:

Special edition of the newsletter with library history—Lisa and Alissa

Photo book of old Town Hall and our move—Kate & Kathy Dick

Talk by local historian—Kate will ask Glenn if he's able/willing, and Deb will talk with Mary Ann Sullivan, Janet with Duke Whitney.

50 Commemorative tote bags—Alissa will order

Birthday cake and apple cider—Gay

List of volunteer opportunities possibly including the idea of sponsors for bookshelves who would be acknowledged with a plaque (Bill to be asked to come up with a 'price list' for this)—Chris, Deb and Kate.

The 125 year celebration will be instead of Art & Chocolate this year.

Library re-opening:

Time capsule idea—it was decided after discussion that this should be planned for the re-opening rather than the 125 anniversary. Kathy could ask Merle to make a special box. The idea of the capsule would be added to the above list so people could start thinking what they want in there—Janet, Lisa and Chris to work on time capsule.

The honor of doing the "First flush" in the new bathroom could be auctioned off at the re-opening celebration

Renovation update--Deb

Discussion of iron sink: sell on FPF vs. use in garden, Higbee happy to use for plantings.

Windows have arrived!

Silver Maple is on schedule with work to be completed by end of September

Spafford promising well will be done by end of August.

Elimination of many sensors has saved a lot of money so that all our priority list items are (tentatively) covered except for bookshelves and window seats.

Preliminary discussion of move back to Town Hall: tabled for August meeting.

Next meeting Monday August 17 at the library.

Motion to adjourn made by Janet at 7:10pm, unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Naylor & Kate Williams