

Weathersfield Proctor Library Trustees Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM
5181 Route 5 Ascutney, VT 05030
Approved: April 17, 2025

Attendance Trustees: Chair, Mavis Ellingwood, Vice-Chair John Waite; Rick Bates; Library Director Mark Richardson. Late: Alicia Jenks. Absent: Anne Parent

Call Trustee Meeting to Order: 7:03 PM

1. Consent Calendar – *The consent calendar consists of items that are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in the form of one motion. Any item can be removed from the consent calendar and heard in its regular order at the request of any Library Trustee or Citizen.*

A. Review Minutes from Previous Meeting. Shall the Trustees approve the meeting minutes for the February 20, 2025 meeting? Rick made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2025 meeting. Mavis seconded and all voted in favor.

B. Rick made a motion to approve WPL expenditures dated March 20, 2025 subject to each Trustee's review and signature. Mavis seconded and all voted in favor.

2. Comments from Citizens on Topics not on the Agenda: None

3. New Business

A. Election of Officers: Nominations and votes for Library Trustee Officers.

I. Chair: Rick made a motion to nominate Chair Mavis Ellingwood to serve another term. John seconded. All voted in favor.

II. Vice Chair: Mavis made a motion to nominate John to serve another term as Vice Chair. Rick seconded. All voted in favor.

III. Secretary: Mavis made a motion to nominate Anne to serve another terms as Secretary. Rick seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Library Director's Report: Mark brought attention to the fact that the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was a target of DOGE

efforts to reduce some Federal agencies and services. IMLS provides resources to museums and libraries in all 50 states and territories. President Trump's Executive Order "Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy" has directed severe cuts to IMLS, threatening to functionally eliminate the agency altogether. How, or to what degree, the hobbling of the agency will affect libraries in Vermont is uncertain. The WPL Summer Reading Program will continue this year, and the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction is scheduled to run a one-day program at the library as well. The seed program is up and running and the public is invited to come to visit WPL and pick seeds for their garden.

C. Memorial benches for Cookie Shand and Ginger Wimberg: Mavis presented a plan to purchase two engraved granite benches from Tribute Artistry in Ascutney as memorials to two women who devoted much time and effort to support the WPL and the Town of Weathersfield generally. Cost for two benches is estimated at \$7800. Placement of the benches has yet to be determined. Rick made a motion that the Trustees make the purchase from both the Memorial fund and Fundraising funds, where there is ample money available. Alicia seconded. All voted in favor. If additional monies for the purchase become available via other sources, such as the Ascutney Union Church, those monies will be used to offset the funds gifted by the WPL.

D. Juneteenth: is a federal holiday which this year falls on Thursday, 29 June 2025. The WPL will be closed in observance.

4. Old Business

A. Library Lighting: Alicia gave an update, describing proposed changes in the ceiling, wall and bookshelf lighting.

B. Astronomy Update: Rick reports submission of a grant application for \$24,000 to cover materials needed for constructing observatory post at Hoisington Field in Perkinsville. Rick also reported that the WPL smart telescope is being shipped to the Town Office and should arrive shortly.

C. Vermont 250 Celebration Update: John reported that the next meeting of the 250 committee is to occur Wednesday 26 March 2025 at the WPL at 1:30 pm. On the docket are continuing discussions about costuming, casting, publicity and more.

D. Summer Fest Music Update. John promoted the idea of having old-timey Vermont fiddler Ida Mae Specker and friends provide musical entertainment for the WPL summer fundraiser. The program will feature Ida Mae Specker with her string-band and a dance caller she has used in the past at similar functions. Cost for this entertainment is \$2000, which is \$500 more than our original budget. Rick made a motion to increase the amount of funding by \$500 to secure the performance. Alicia seconded. All voted in favor. John will contact Ida Mae Specker to inform her of the favorable vote and ask about contract terms.

E. Eleventh Annual Town Challenge: will be held Saturday 22 March 2025. The WPL will field a team for the Challenge. Good luck to us!

Rick made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. John seconded. All voted in favor.