

WOLFEBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Beaver Room

Monday, September 8, 2025

Present - Trustees: Doug Smith (Chair), Sharon Marigliano (Treasurer), Nancy Bell (Secretary), Stephen Farley, Alternate Trustees: Sandra Whittier and Diane Bolduc, Library Director: Alison Rutley, Youth Services Librarian – Jenn MacLeod, Representative to Board of Selectmen – Linda Murray, Linda Wilberton Vice Chair) – absent. Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Non-Public Session – not necessary

Diane Bolduc was selected as a voting member for this meeting due to the absence of Linda Wilberton.

Approval of the Minutes of August 11, 2025

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Stephen Farley. Doug Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Sharon Marigliano reviewed the Statement of Assets and Liabilities which shows a return rate of 4% which is very nice. We are also on track for the year with the Budget vs. Actuals report. Grants which have been received were helpful.

Summer Statistics

Information on the Youth Services Summer program was presented by Youth Services Librarian Jenn MacLeod. Reading program sign-ups showed significant increase by age: 0-5 up 70%, 6-11 up 56.16%, 12-18 up 316.67%. 172 participants completed reading logs and received free books. 1475 hours of reading were logged. Prizes were donated from 15 area attractions and distributed to 24 lucky winners.

A total of 40 programs for Youth were held from June 20 to August 31, 2025, including 5 Off-Site Outreach Programs, 15 Preschool Programs/Storytimes, 13 kid's programs and 7 teen programs. A total of 1,183 people attended library programs for kids and teens this summer. This is a 91.42% increase. Programs with the highest attendance included The Center for Wildlife Birds of Prey (116), Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals (84), Showtime Steve Variety Show (71) Tiny Art Paint First Session (67) (an additional 53 joined for our second session). We were pleased by the increased interest in teens this summer. There was a substantial increase in the reading logs subscriptions.

Librarian's Report

Hoopla is up 35% over August 2024.
Overdrive Audio Books – up 10%

Overdrive Magazines are up 22%
New Patron Cards – up 38%
Public Computer Usage – up 8%
Number of Adult Programs – up 10%
Number of Adult Attendees – up 62%
Number of Children Programs Attendees – up 132%

Shelving

The new library shelving that was provided by a grant from the WPL Foundation was installed. This additional bay allows for expansion of the large print collection. Adding to the large print collection was a reoccurring theme during our library community conversations in early 2025. The expansion of the large print collection will enhance accessibility to resources for all the patrons. Collection and library access is a goal in our current Strategic Plan.

AI Training

On October 15, the WPL will be hosting a regional library AI workshop instructed by Bobbi Slossar, Technology and Resource Library at the NH State Library. Bobbi will be training professional staff from regional libraries on how to provide AI training sessions to our communities. Our library staff currently utilize free AI tools on a daily basis, so we are hoping to enhance our knowledge in order to train our library patrons on the various uses of AI.

Solar

Nancy Hirschberg is currently working on the reimbursement of \$48,600 from USDA. There was uncertainty that the USDA would receive this round of funding from the current Administration. It appears that we may be able to secure reimbursement, so the Energy Committee is forwarding all the necessary paperwork. If the funding does come through, we will be able to reimburse the Town for most of the 2024 warrant article monies.

New Business

CIP – 2026 - Update

Wolfeboro Waters had questions for the specifications for the Vortex. The vortex is a filtering system to filter rain entering the ground water to ease pollution in our lakes. Alison has had correspondence with Brian Kuchar of Horsley & Witten to present to Wolfeboro Waters. Jim Pineo states that this cost should be included as part of the Capital Improvement Project for 2025.

Budget 2026

Alison is working on a presentation for the town. She mentions two articles appearing in the NY Times referring to increase in the cost of books. She also referred to the increase in the cost of E-libraries such as Hoopla and Libby which are very expensive, but extremely popular with patrons. Digital platform expansion is desirable and is driven by technical services which need improvements. We need to consider a staff increase to implement the technical services required.

A discussion of the increase necessitated by cost of economic issues including change in publishing providers and suppliers ensued.

Alison was asked for a list of categories and programs that would be beneficial to the Wolfeboro Public Library for the future. Also requested were resources available in order to meet the goals of the library.

Last Night - December 31, 2025, Time change (9:30 - 2:00)

An update to the information received at the last meeting was provided as the library is usually closed on December 31. However, the staff is interested in remaining open to enable the use of the facility for programs. Steve Farley made a motion to have the library open until 2:00 to enable use for programs. The motion was seconded by Doug Smith. All voted in favor.

October 31, 2025 - extend open hours to 7:00 p.m.

Stephen Farley made a motion to allow the library to remain open on Hallowe'en until 7:00 p.m. to take part in Trick or Treat activities and hand out books. The motion was seconded by Doug and all voted in favor.

Other New Business - none

Grants and Donations

Stephen Farley made a motion to accept \$1,488.00 in Donations. The motion was seconded by Sharon Marigliano. All voted in favor.

Public Input - not needed

Upcoming Meeting/Events

Board of Trustees Meeting - Monday, October 6, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

Policy and Procedures Committee - Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Finance Committee - Tuesday, October 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Human Resources Committee - Monday, October 27, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Facilities - TBD

Landscaping - TBD

Stephen Farley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Doug Smith. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Bell, Trustee Secretary

Note: Minutes are UNAPPROVED until voted on by the Board of Trustees