

**Walpole Town Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 13, 2025**

Present: Amy Howard (Chair), Kathy Nerrie (Treasurer), Gail LaHaise, Susan Johnson, Bill Ranauro, Sarah Mann, Erin Bowen, Jean Kobeski (Recording Secretary), Jane Malmberg (Library Director),

Absent: Jana Sellarole

Amy called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the main library.

Approval of Minutes: Gail made a motion to accept the April, 2025 minutes as written. Erin seconded the motion and all voted to approve.

Treasurer's Report: The trustees decided it would be more appropriate to change the name of the line item "Volunteer Dinner" to "Staff Appreciation" in the budget. This could then include dinners or other tokens of appreciation and avoid confusion.

Bills: Jane discussed the library passes, which appeared in the bills. She stated we will no longer purchase passes to the Currier Museum because they are seldom used. She has added the Mariposa Museum in Peterborough. With no further discussion, Amy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Bills. Gail seconded, and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Survey Results: There were 102 responses to the survey. Sarah compiled results and shared them with Jane, who highlighted the most frequently mentioned comments with the board.

Results include the following:

1. 89.6% of respondents feel the library is meeting its mission while 10.4% feel it is somewhat meeting its mission.
2. The library needs more adult programming, including more intellectual programming (history, science, etc.).
3. Many feel the library should engage more with the school and community.
4. Roughly 52% of respondents come to the library once/week, 17% more than once/week, and 17% once/month. 90% come to the library to borrow books, 87% attend programs. Many use the library for the downloadables.
5. Expand the collection to include more fiction in addition to best sellers.
6. Several patrons expressed frustration using the moveable stacks; however, due to limited space in the library, the board feels it is the practical solution for meeting our collection goals.

Patrons were asked how they learn of announcements and events at the library and they replied:

1. Library newsletter and emails
2. *Walpole Clarion*
3. Library website
4. Sandwich board outside the library
5. Library staff

Patrons feel the following are the strengths of our library:

1. The staff

2. Children's programming
3. Large number of books
4. Lovely space
5. Customer services
6. Inter-Library Loan
7. Safe and inclusive
8. Great for all ages

After looking at the survey results, it was decided that the 5-year planning should address:

1. More resources for students and families
2. More programs
3. Opportunities for volunteers to participate in the library
4. Increased resources for seniors
5. Promotion of community partnerships

It was also decided that the library needs to do more self-promotion. It was clear from the survey that many people are not aware of many services the library and its staff already provide.

Next step is to set a time to do the long-range planning, which will include the entire board and some staff members.

Old Home Days

The musician is scheduled for the afternoon program at the library. The parade was discussed. The staff felt that the idea proposed at last month's board meeting focused too much on children; the theme should include both adults and children. The new and final idea was presented and Jane invited board members to participate, either by marching and/or doing the needed artwork.

Bill presented his idea for the bookmark and asked for board input. After a short discussion, decisions were made and Bill said he would take care of getting them made.

Operations

Porch Lights: Jane reported that Houghton came and adjusted the new lighting; neighbors are satisfied with the adjustment.

State Budget: Jane stated that monies are still available for libraries, so none of the services, ILL, Libby, and talking books, are threatened at this time. She has heard nothing new about the progress with the state budget but will keep the board informed of any news from Concord.

Circulation: Libby and Hoopla continue to be very popular services, with Hoopla the most widely used. Sarah asked Jane to explain the differences between the two. Hoopla does not necessarily have all the latest best sellers that Libby does and it never requires a hold. Holds on books in Libby can last several weeks. Hoopla also has audio books (as does Libby) and videos.

Printer Problems: Jane said Sarah's husband came to the library to try to solve the printer problem but was unable to do so. Jane has been in contact with Consolidated again, and is waiting to hear when they can come to the library. Bjorn will meet with them when they come.

Buildings and Grounds: Jane reported that the bark on one side of the new tree was scraped by machinery being used for roof repair next door.

Friends of the Library: The Friends have told Jane they want to give more money to the library. Jane suggested the money be used for programming because she is unsure if grant money will be available for that. The Friends also mentioned paying for newspapers and magazines.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Gail made a motion to adjourn; Erin seconded. Amy adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

The next meeting will be June 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

** These minutes are in draft form until approved at the June 10, 2025 meeting.