

Waterford Public Library
Board of Trustees
13 January 2026

Trustees present: M. Furey-Wagner, L. Couture, N. Dragoli, B. Kyne, J. Lehet, J. Merrill, G. Ritter, A. Robarge, A. Rosenberg, A. Simpson Also present, C. Johnson, Library Director, T. Fioravanti, RTM Education Committee Chair, and S. Driscoll, RTM Moderator.

Not present: E. Boyce, C. Giordano.

1. A quorum was established and President M. Furey-Wagner called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. There was no Public Comment.

3. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes for 18 November 2025 and 10 December 2025, no changes.

B. & C. Treasurer's and Financial Report - G. Ritter

- The Endowment account increased 13% this year, the third year in a row, to end at \$470,000.
- The increase in principal means an increase in the actual dollars.
- For FY2027, 5% of a three-year average, resulted in a \$182,000 budgeted contribution.

A motion was made by A. Simpson, seconded by A. Rosenberg to accept the Consent Agenda as submitted. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions.

4. President's Report - M. Furey-Wagner

- The annual evaluation for the Director will be submitted, to HR, on 14 January.
- It is important for the Trustees to attend and support the Library budget at the upcoming Board of Selectmen (4 Feb 26) and Board of Finance (2 Mar 26) Hearings.

5. Executive Session - omitted

6. Committee Reports

A. Finance - G. Ritter (See above)

B. Development and Fundraising - M. Furey-Wagner

- Year to date, the current Net Annual Fund donations are \$26,076, a 2% increase over last year at this time.
- Overall net fundraising is down as a result of fewer Bequests.
- The Fundraising Budget for 2026 is \$35,000. At half way through the year, and post expenses to date, we are at 74.50% of the budgeted amount.
- Last year \$7,000 was raised from the Jewelry Sale. This year the Jewelry Sale will be held 11 April. *Note: at its January 9 Committee meeting, the date has been changed to Saturday, May 2, still 11 am to 2 pm.*

C. Building and Grounds - C. Johnson

- The HVAC project is now complete.
- The only outstanding item is staff training on controlling the system.
- On 20 December, following heavy rains and wind, part of the ceiling in the Children's Activity Room came down. It was reported to DPW. The repair was finally completed by Tremco this week.
- The RTM approved \$25,000 for design work for the replacement of the electrical service to the library.
- The planned town-wide LED lighting upgrades have been cancelled, as it was determined there would be no cost savings to the Town.
- A separate request has been made to DPW to replace lights removed in the staff workroom as part of the HVAC project as well as replacing "can" bulbs in the public areas. These can only be done with a lift.

D. Policy and Personnel - A. Simpson

- Inclusive language is required by State Statute.
- Every principle public library in CT has this language making it consistent with the law.
- This is to protect the institutions, librarians, and library boards.

7. Director's Report - C. Johnson

- Library staff and Trustees attended the RTM meeting on 1 December in support of DPW's request for \$25,000 for design money for the new electrical service project.
- Two vendor sessions were attended on 19 November; unlocking the power of the iCloud Library and CLC's Amazon.

- On 11 December there was a Zoom meeting with Jenna Bivona, Children's Librarian, and Chris and Eileen Boyce to discuss the next steps for the Children's Room refresh project funded by the Boyce family.
- Linda Sullivan managed another successful holiday book sale, which began Thanksgiving week, and yielded \$1,547 up from last year's total of \$1,437.
- In November our partners at Traveling Toys advised that Sirena Medical Aesthetics wanted to hold a holiday "toy raiser". Jenna provided a list and a total of \$600 of toys was purchased on our behalf. These will be in our circulating collection as well as used for our Lap Sit storytime for babies.
- WPL was awarded 12 puzzles by Ravensburger in support of a puzzle competition to be held this winter.
- Submitted a grant to USAging for \$35,000 to fund one year of weekly Memory Cafe Sessions. Applicants will be notified in February.
- On 31 December, submitted a grant to T-Mobile for \$50,000. This grant was specific to communities with less than 50,000 residents who are looking to improve public spaces. If awarded it would support the upgrades to the library's meeting room: A/V, carpeting and furniture upgrades. Applicants will be advised in mid-late February.
- On 12 December, M. Furey-Wagner dedicated the blue spruce tree in front of the library in memory of retired Assistant Director, Judy Liskov.
- Effective, 6 January, the library will now offer a one-hour hold for museum passes and Red Hots. This new service initiative will be promoted in February.
- Long time library book vendor Baker and Taylor officially ceased operations in December. The entire book vendor landscape continues to be in flux.
- Saturday February 7th is the 15th Anniversary of "Take Your Child to the Library" which was initiated by Nadine Lipman, Waterford Children's Librarian. This year Nadine will be joining us for a special celebration starting at 10 a.m. Snow date of February 21st.

8. Old Business

A. Board of Trustee Goals for 2025-2026

1. To support the ongoing work of the policy committee to review and update Board of Trustee Policies. Not completed.
2. To support the Director in seeking increased staffing for the Children's Services Department. Jenna is flat out. The director is requesting grant funding from the Community Foundation of Eastern CT to support additional part-time hours. In addition, a grant will be submitted to the Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce, to support a summer intern for library youth services.
3. To engage with the Town in the planned capital improvement upgrades to the Library building including the electrical service and roof replacement.

A motion was made by N. Dragoli, seconded by A. Simpson, to accept the Goals as submitted. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions.

9. New Business

A. Directors and Officers Insurance

A motion was made by B. Kyne, seconded by A. Simpson to approve up to \$4,000 for D&O Insurance from Acrisure.

B. A request from the First Selectman for the Library's Endowment to partially fund the library's \$1M roof replacement in FY27.

A motion was made by B. Kyne, seconded by L. Couture: In accordance with The Board of Trustee By-Laws, the Endowment cannot be used to fund capital improvements to a facility owned by the Town of Waterford. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions.

C. Take Your Child to the Library Day is Saturday February 7th. Please join in for this celebration

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by B. Kyne, seconded by J. Merrill, to adjourn. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 18 January 2026

Joy S. Merrill, Co-Secretary