

Waterford Public Library
Board of Trustees
13 May 2026

Trustees present: M. Furey-Wagner, L. Couture, N. Dragoli, B. Kyne, J. Lehet, J. Merrill, G. Ritter, A. Roberge, A. Rosenberg, A. Simpson. Also present, C. Johnson, Library Director.

Not present: E. Boyce, C. Giordano.

1. A quorum was established and President M. Furey-Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

2. There was no Public Comment.

3. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes for 10 March 2026, no changes.

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

- The Endowment account value was down in February, back up in March, and up again in April. Current market value, as of 30 April 2026, \$4.3 million. Our Index Funds are less volatile. With inflation our normal spending will go up. Books cost more now. Therefore, we need a \$5 million endowment to continue.

A motion was made by A. Simpson, seconded by J. Merrill 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

- First of all, thank you to N. Dragoli, A. Simpson, and E. Boyce for their considerable time in collecting, organizing, and running the Jewelry Sale. Also, thank you to J. Lehet and A. Roberge for their help the day of.
- Thank you to our Director, Chris for leading Great Discussions which brought in new people this year. Chris has also been leading the Memory Cafe each week at the Senior Center. All this with out her Assistant for a minimum of four weeks.

5. Executive Session - omitted

6. Committee Reports

A. Finance - See above 3B and 3C.

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B. Development and Fundraising - M. Furey-Wagner

- Year to date, the current Net Fundraising is \$39,393, a decrease of \$7,786 over last year at this time.
- Net Bequests, at \$2,333 is down considerably from last year as a result of fewer Bequests.
- The Second Annual Jewelry Sale goal was to completely clear out all goods.
- Sales on 2 May netted \$4,738, \$300 more than last year's sale. It is anticipated that an additional \$3,000 will be realized from a "bulk" sale to a dealer for the remainder of items.
- We will take a break for a year.

C. Facilities and HVAC project - C. Johnson

- The HVAC project is basically complete. Final payout will be after the rooftop chillers are inspected and tested.
- It has been nice having a system that automatically flips from heat to A/C as needed based on the weather.
- Shortcuts to the Automated Building System controls are to be installed on specific computers.
- The property Committee met with Ken Hipsky for an update on the project to replace the electrical service.
- Gary Schneider has advised that due to the cost of running the power conduits under Rope Ferry Road, the first power pole, adjacent to the library's entrance will need to remain.
- Wires can then be run underground along the park and cross under by the garage where the transformer will be installed.
- The new outdoor and parking lot lighting plan was reviewed on 6 May.
- Next step is for Gary to request to spend funds from the electrical service project to begin this Fall. He believes the trenching and outdoor lighting can be done prior to the Spring 2027 transformer installation timeline.
- At the request of the First Selectman, Gary submitted a request to Senator Murphy's office for Congressionally Directed Spending funds to support the roof, electric service replacement, and lower level HVAC replacement at the library.
- A decision will be made in February 2027 if Congress will award this funding.
- DPW will continue to request funding via the Town's three boards.
- The LED motion sensor lighting project is 95% complete. Staff is monitoring areas that are problematic with regard to automatic shutoff; front entrance and Children's Room.

D. Policy and Personnel - A. Simpson

- Revisions to the current policy continues with staff.

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E. Nominating - M. Furey-Wagner for C. Giordano

- The three Trustees with terms ending this fiscal year, N. Dragoli, J. Lehet, and A. Simpson, have agreed to continue as Trustees. They will be nominated at the Annual Meeting in July.

7. Director's Report - C. Johnson

- The PLA Conference took place 31 March - 3 April in Minneapolis. I was a member of a three person panel that gave a presentation on Memory Cafes in Libraries: Creating Meaningful Connections. An article in Public Libraries Online noted it for being one of the most impactful sessions.
- Several Town budget transfer requests have been made. Another request for an in-series transfer of \$3,620 will be made to cover a deficit in Clerical/Technical line.
- The library received its annual Community Foundation fund grants, \$14,350 was budgeted and \$14,080 received, a deficit of \$270.
- The state Borrow-IT reimbursement came in under budget with a deficit of \$878.
- State Aid to Libraries grant of \$1,382 enabled six staff members to attend the annual CLA conference in Groton in April.
- Once again, the library will be partnering with the New London Youth Employment program which will provide funding for our current Page's wages over the summer. It is possible we might get a second person.
- Resubmitted the T-Mobile Hometown grant request for the meeting room refresh. This is the final round of this opportunity.
- Community Foundation of Eastern CT is providing \$12,000 to partially fund our "Growing Readers and Ready Learners". This award will support an additional 9 hours of staff time for 40 weeks for our Youth Services PT Info/Ref Assistant. This will enable the library to offer two monthly sessions of our very popular baby lapsit program.
- Waterford Rotary has provided \$500 for support of youth STEAM. However, this may be the final grant as the club is dissolving.
- In April Waterford participated in the statewide Passport to Libraries program. All libraries reported a big jump in participation over the previous event in 2024.
- In July, I will begin my fourth year on the Board of the Connecticut Library Consortium. This year, I will be serving as the Chair of the organization.
- Jill Adams is continuing her work as part of the Town's America 250/Waterford 225 planning committee. A town wide kick off event is planned for Saturday, June 6th.

8. Old Business

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- A. Directors and Officers Insurance - Acrisure was selected and a payment of \$1,550 was issued. This covers the Board for both suits and embezzlement.
- B. Libraries with Heart Kits - C. Grandejean, Esq., reviewed the contract. We are awaiting the American Heart Association's approval of Cliff's recommended contract changes.

9. New Business

- A. A motion for a "reapproval of blank board permission for Town budget transfer requests" from the Minutes of the BOT meeting on 8 March 2022, with the same verbiage: "Proposal to allow the Library Director able to request Town budget transfers without Board approval. Director will report on any transfers at the following Board meeting." was made by B. Kyne, seconded by A. Simpson. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions.
- B. A motion to close the library on Friday July 3rd and Saturday July 4th was made by J. Merrill, seconded by B. Kyne. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions.
- C. A motion to postpone the Annual Meeting to July 28th was made by B. Kyne and seconded by G. Ritter. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions.
- D. The Board meeting schedule for FY27 was presented.
- E. The Director request for an additional \$3,000 for the Meeting Room A/V Replacement was made. A discussion ensued over the amount from the Endowment. The request was tabled until the July meeting.
- F. A motion was made by J. Merrill, seconded by M. Furey-Wagner to fund \$1,000 for a Staff Appreciation Dinner in August. After discussion, this was tabled until the July meeting.
- G. Since the demise of a major book vendor, Brodart & Ingram has struggled to keep up with orders. Many items are on backorder. The Director made a request to continue to spend against FY26 materials budgets as these items are received. A motion was made by G. Ritter, seconded by B. Kyne, to encumber funds for the explicit purpose of paying for books with a publication date prior to July 1st. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by A. Rosenberg, seconded by J. Merrill to adjourn. A vote was taken. All in favor, none against, no abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 20 May 2026

Joy S. Merrill, Co-Secretary

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