

Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Leverett Library

Attendance: Hannah Paessel - Library Director; Chris Condit, Judith Davidov, Rachel Flint, Joan Godsey, Seth Seeger, Lisa Werner - Trustees; Kathy Weller - Friends of Leverett Library; Chris Barber - library patron

Joan moved to accept the October 8 meeting minutes, Seth seconded, and we unanimously approved.

Trustee Business:

We discussed the pickleball Court CPC application to build two courts close to the library, neighbor feedback letter, NY Times article regarding noise from pickleball courts, and pickleball noise article from the Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics.

- The pickleball group is hoping for a letter of support from the library for their CPC application.
- Hannah spoke to library staff to get their input and they all have some level of concern about the sound.
- She also spoke to neighbors and two out of five are opposed, one thinks it's ok, and she couldn't speak to the other two.
- The Trustees have serious concerns about the effects of noise from the proposed courts, particularly with the anticipated increased use of the library's outdoor space/park area. Additionally, library staff have concerns and several neighbors are opposed.
- Rachel moved that we decline writing a letter of support for building the pickleball courts at this location, Joan seconded, we unanimously approved.

Volunteer appreciation

- Joan worked with Big Y to obtain a cash donation to help pay for the Stonewall Kitchen appreciation gifts. The gifts will be given to 7 staff and 9 volunteers at Thanksgiving - as a thank you. Thank you Joan!!!

Preliminary FY27 budget prep - suggestions

- It is likely to be a tight budget year coming up. We discussed whether we want to request funds in the town budget to continue staff for the additional library hours added this year.
- Hannah has been considering this. One possible strategy is readjustment of Substitute position (5 hours per week)
- Requires Personnel Committee approval.
- Additional funds for continuing Friday hours with readjusting Substitute position would be approx. \$3,000.

Updates:

Hannah updated us about the grounds project:

- Most earth movement has been completed.
- Concrete work behind the building is in progress.
- Footing design for the stage are now in hand.
- Pending issues: benches, reduction in material for stage, change for footing and slab design, electrical to stage.
- There's a ²¹week delay for the instruments to be built and for designing and prepping the boardwalk for installation

Potential future art-related opportunities

- We've had a request to show sculptures in our future park. When we write those policies, we should consider this.
- Bird Art and books from Mary Alice Wilson's collection may be donated and used for a silent auction fundraiser for RGT and Library. Eva will keep us informed if this comes to pass.

FRIENDS REPORT

- The main focus recently has been the fundraising baskets. They have been assembled, the bidding website is ready to go live, and the baskets will be displayed at the library beginning tomorrow.

Director's Reports:

Financials: 28% through the year.

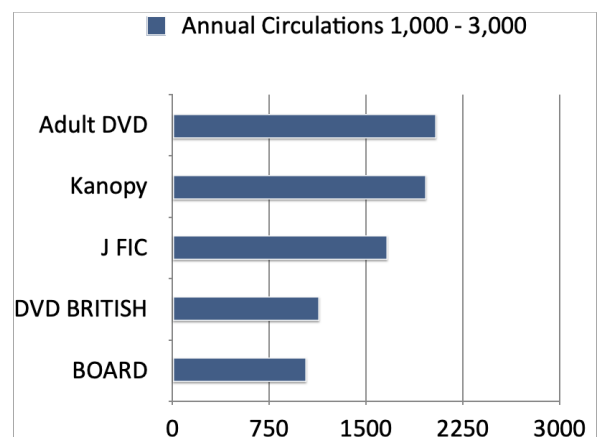
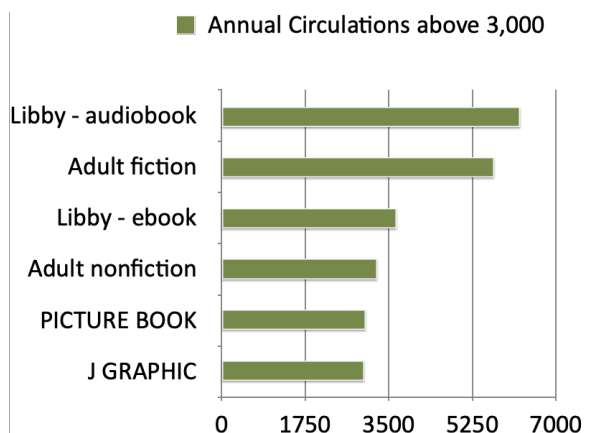
Account	Start Fiscal Year	Amount remaining	%
General Expenses	\$34,469	\$23,330	32%

Wages	\$88,331	\$57,985	34%
Building	\$24,466	\$22,525	8%
State Aid	n/a	\$25,877	
Gift	n/a	\$81,918	
Bequest Detail	\$91,124	\$72,589	
Revolving - Fines	n/a	\$741	
Revolving - Printing/Use	n/a	\$645	

Circulation Statistics

October 2024	Service	October 2025
2,526	CWMARS	3,043
839	Libby	897
125	Kanopy	134

Highly active areas of the library collection



Attendance Statistics

October 2024	Attendance type	October 2025
967	General Library	1208
339	Library Programs	421
42	Non-library programs	72

Staff & Volunteers:

- Sarah will be out for a few weeks. She's done a great job preparing us for her planned leave.
- Peggy attended the WMLA annual meeting and got to meet Misha.
- Our wonderful volunteers cumulatively volunteer 10-12 hours per week and the work they do is critical for our smooth operations. Thank you to all of them!

Meetings & Programs:

- Most attended this month were: Playgroup (98), LEGO (65), Tai Chi (50).
- Notable: Pokemon programs brought a lot of excitement and we had 69 people (mostly kids) participate over the 3 passive and active Pokemon programs.
- Current exhibit: mother and daughter show of Julie Kumble and Elena Watson
- Nonlibrary events include: Village Neighbors, Friends Annual Meeting, Five College Learning after retirement, and Nancy Emond's watercolor class.

Building:

- Waiting on gutter maintenance
- HVAC was serviced and one thermostat restarted.

Next Meeting: December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Seth moved that the meeting be adjourned, Joan seconded, and we unanimously approved at 8:23 pm