

Douglas Library Board Meeting

January 21, 2026

Present: Bunny McGuire, chair; Charlie Adams, Jill Godburn, Bonnie Kinsman, Rosemarie Lopez, Laura Moran, Library Director

The Chair called for a motion to open the meeting. The motion to open the meeting was made by Rose and seconded by Charlie.

The minutes of the December 2025 meeting were accepted as written. A motion to approve was made by Jill and seconded by Bonnie.

Old Business:

Appeal Letter Update: Donations from the Appeal continue to come in, our current total is \$9015.30 and we have just passed the halfway mark toward last year's total of \$15,861.20. A digital copy of the Appeal will be sent to patrons we have not yet heard from, and plans are underway for a second mailing. A thank you was sent to Cindy at HVRHS for her assistance with the Appeal.

New Business:

Friends Report – Holiday Party: Bunny reported that although attendance was lower than in previous years, a wonderful time was had by all. The cold temperatures may have contributed to the reduced turnout. Food donations were provided by Board Members, Friends of the Library members, faithful patrons, the Canaan Country Club, Stop & Shop, Stateline Wine and Spirits, Big Y, LaBonne's, and were supplemented by Freund's Farm Market. Party proceeds totaled \$385, with an additional \$230 raised from the raffle baskets. A sincere thank you goes out to everyone who contributed their assistance, food, and baskets.

Staff: Laura Moran provided an update on recent staff changes. Lisa Bequillard has joined the staff and brings valuable experience; she is also currently employed at the Bakerville Library in New Hartford. While we hope she will remain with us, it is possible she may soon be appointed Director at Bakerville, which could limit her availability here. We are pleased to have Lynn resuming her hours.

Kimmie Atkinson began work today and will be assisting on Wednesdays, as well as on an as-needed basis. Appreciation was expressed to Norma and Carolyn for their support and reliability during Laura's recent absence.

A lunch will be held for Carolyn on February 21st at Stateline Pizza. Staff and Board will be invited.

Finances: Lisa continues to work with the current Town Treasurer to facilitate the transition of our financial processes. We were informed this week of a significant upcoming expense related to the mandatory five-year elevator inspection and testing. **We will begin drafting the budget for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.**

Received for Record
1/23/20 5:51PM
K. O. Thompson

Librarian's Report:

Children's Events: Friday morning story hours have been lightly attended. We are preparing for Take Your Child to the Library on February 7th. Families are invited to stop by the library for a variety of fun activities, including giveaways, a raffle, our monthly scavenger hunt, and a hands-on craft table. This event will be press release will be sent to the Lakeville Journal, and publicized through NCES, The Town of North Canaan, and Social Media.

Adult Events: Monthly Mahjong will be paused for now though patrons are invited to join the weekly gathering at Geer Village, please call the library for more information. Scrabble continues but is occasionally sparse due to cold and snowy roads. The opportunity for a Mother's Group will continue. Kathryn Boughton will have a local history talk to kick off the Nation's 250th birthday, this evening, January 21.

Holiday Hours: We will be closed on February 16th for Presidents' Day. In case of winter storms we will follow the Region One School closing and delays.

Building Operations: The bathroom upstairs flooded on January 6th. JCO Plumbing came to assist. There was some damage to floor tiles and a repair will be needed. Earlier in January a small leak was noticed near the front entry. It appears that this is very occasional but should be accessed. We were notified that this year we are due for a mandatory, load bearing test on the elevator that will have a significant cost. Some savings could be found by grouping the visit with others also testing. The maintenance door to the elevator room needs a minor adjustment so the latch closes securely.

Events:

Local History Talk, Kathryn Boughton, January 21st, 7:00 pm

A Weekly Mother's Group, Wednesdays @ 10:30 am

Story Hour, Fridays @ 10:30 am

Scrabble Mondays @ 6:00 pm

Book Club, Chains, January 28th, 2:00 pm

Take Your Child to the Library, February 7th, 10:00 – 1:00

Child and Caregiver Painting Workshop, February 7th, 11:00 am

Community Event- George Washington's Birthday Ball, February 21st, 7:00pm

Adult Dot Painting Workshop, February 9th, 6:30 pm (6 spots left)

Senior Mid-Day Meet up beginning February 11th and 25th, 12:00

Board Meeting, February 11, 7:00 pm

Planning a Local Author Talk in the Spring, Peter Vermilyea

Plant Sale, Saturday, May 16th

Cocktail Party, Friday, July 11th

Public comment: On behalf of the North Canaan Events Committee, Jenn Crane attended to confirm dates for upcoming events being held at the Library. Please see above.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Moran, Library Director