

Douglas Library Board Meeting

April 8, 2026

Present: Bunny McGuire, chair; Charlie Adams, Laura Morales Chapell, Jill Godburn, Laura Leifert, Taylor Lemon, Laura Moran, Library Director

The minutes of the March 2026 meeting were accepted as written.

Old Business:

Appeal Letter Update: The current total from the Annual Appeal and the Second Mailing is \$13,103.90.

New Business:

Plant Sale Planning: The Plant Sale will take place on May 16th, 10:00-1:00. 8:00 am will be the time for set up. Carol S. is working with Fruend's. Laura MC has worked with HVRHS for geraniums and hanging baskets, she will need help with pick up (TBD). Bunny will reach out to the Beckley House for volunteers to help set up. Laura M. requested high school volunteers. Board members are encouraged to reach out to other nurseries asking for plant donations. The bag of books sale will take place in the library. The poster will be updated and used again. There will be a post requesting donations of potted plants from the community.

Friends of the Library: There will be a meeting of the Friends on April 18th to discuss the Plant Sale. Laura M. discussed the museum passes that are available for patrons and the benefits of adding additional museum passes. The library will request funds from the Friends to use towards two additional, highly requested passes.

Summer Work Program: Jill G. reported that the library has been selected to receive the assistance of 1-2 North Canaan students through the summer jobs program. These students will be paid through the program and will work at the library during the summer.

Staff Update – Cleaning Services: The director noted that our longstanding and highly valued cleaner, Pat D., has resigned for personal reasons. The board wishes to recognize Pat for her many years of outstanding service with a small gathering of staff and board members on a date to be determined. The board is also exploring the option of contracting with a cleaning service moving forward.

Finances:

Budget: The Director proposed adding new budget line items for restricted use grants and for sale related items benefiting the Library of Things and other designated purposes. After discussion, the Board accepted the proposal. The Board further affirmed that the budget changes discussed above were acceptable and, formally approved the budget as amended for the Fiscal year 2026-27.

Librarian's Report:

Events: On March 27th, Audra from the Northwest Conservation District joined us for a special story hour that brought in an excellent turnout, including children from the childcare center and many others. The children enjoyed a story, learned about the five things plants need to grow, and planted bean seeds

to take home. In addition to these programs, our volunteers have been especially active this past month. Our three high school volunteers have been assisting with program preparation, organizing materials, and continuing their work on the upcoming Alice in Wonderland Party. We are also grateful for the dedicated volunteers who have been working steadily in the book sale area, helping to sort, organize, and prepare materials for ongoing and future sales. Their combined efforts have contributed significantly to the smooth running of library activities.

Looking ahead, several of our volunteer readers will be returning to lead story hours throughout April. Preparations continue for the Alice in Wonderland Party, open to all ages, with volunteers generously offering to provide teasized treats for the event. Children's Book Week will run from May 4–9, and we anticipate strong participation from families.

The Senior MidDay MeetUp has now moved to Mondays to avoid conflicts with other community activities. Our book groups are meeting successfully, with the next Douglas group gathering scheduled for April 29th. Scrabble evenings continue, and all levels of players are welcome. Several special programs are planned for the coming weeks, including Peter Vermilyea's talk on Friday, April 10th, followed by a presentation on Grief Basics 101 on Saturday, April 11th at 11:00. The Friends of the Douglas Library will meet on Saturday, April 18th to discuss the upcoming plant sale. On Friday, April 24th at 6:30, an audiovisual presentation will explore the art of Alice in Wonderland editions through the years. The annual Plant Sale will be held on May 16th beginning at 10:00, and on May 27th at 6:00 there will be an evening presentation for which reservations will be requested, with a drawing for those who reserve a seat. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 10th at 6:00

USAC 471- CEN internet and connection and maintenance. The library is currently waiting for technicians to relocate the connection equipment to the basement where it will reduce the noise in the library.

Grants:

Canaan Foundation: The Douglas Library gratefully received two grants. The grants will cover a substantial portion of the cost of Bibliomation, which provides public libraries with integrated library system support, cataloging and circulation services, shared digital resources, and reliable technical assistance to help streamline daily operations and improve patron access, and the funds for two community programs.

Pathways Program Grant: The library continues to await information regarding the availability of ReConnect Grant funds.

Crosswicks Foundation: This grant assists with operations of the library.

Building Operations: Meeting with Selectmen in April to walk through the building to discuss building improvements. Laura M. inquired with CA Lindell about bunting for the library to celebrate the 250th there are two options with examples, they are cotton in appearance. The cost is approximately \$25 for 2 of the smaller size or one of larger size.

Events:

Story Hour, Fridays @ 10:30 am

Scrabble Mondays @ 6:00 pm

Scavenger Hunt - Monthly

Art Show, Angie Veilleux , April

Local Author Talk, Peter Vermilyea, April 10, 6:00 pm

From the first sparks of revolution in the 1770s,

Litchfield County played an important role in the War of Independence.

Grief Basics Talk, April 11, 11:00am

Friends of the Douglas Library Meeting, April 18th, 10:00 am

Senior Mid-Day Meet up, 1:45pm, Monday, April 20th, Alice in Wonderland Theme,

May 4th Floral Activity, and 18th, Mini-Golf

Alice in Wonderland Story Hour, Friday, April 17th, @ 10:30 am

Alice in Wonderland: To the Rabbit Hole and Beyond. Friday, April 24th @ 6:30 pm

Varoujan Froundjian presents an audio-visual exploration of paintings, theater, and film.

Alice in Wonderland Party, Saturday, April 25th@ 10:30 am RSVP, limited seats.

Book Club, The Only Woman in the Room, Benedict, April 29th, 2:00 pm

Children's Book Week, May 4th-9th

Families Design, Build, Share, and Play Picture Book Mini-Golf - Prizes for Multiple Categories

Book Fairy Story Hour, Friday, May 8th, 10:30 am

Reserve a time to play Picture Book Mini-Golf, Saturday, May 9th

Plant Sale Donations accepted behind the building May 9-15th

Plant Sale, Saturday, May 16th 10:00-1:00 pm

Talk on the Local Watershed by Northwest conservation district, May 27th, 6:00 pm, RSVP requested

Board Meeting, June 10th, 6:00 pm

Cocktail Party, Friday, July 11th

Public comment:

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Moran, Library Director