

Douglas Library Board Meeting

July 9, 2026

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

The minutes of the June 2026 meeting were accepted as written, moved by Charlie A. seconded by Jill G.

Old Business:

Liberty Cocktail Party: The Cocktail Party is to be held September 18th, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. The event will have a red, white, and blue color scheme. Committee members discussed a planning meeting to be held with all volunteers on Saturday, August 29th at 1:00 pm. A message will be sent by the Director to members and the volunteer list, everyone is welcome.

Museum Passes: With the support of the Friends of the Library, the library has purchased new discount passes for the KidsPlay Children's Museum in Torrington and the Action Wildlife Center in Goshen. The pass for Action Wildlife is available for checkout. The KidsPlay pass will be added to circulation upon arrival.

New Business:

Friends of the Library: There will be a meeting of the Friends on Saturday, August 15th, 1:00 pm to discuss the creation of a three-group model.

The First Group consists of the appointed Douglas Library Board.

The Friends of the Library (501(c)(3) Nonprofit), The Friends Group will serve as the charitable arm.

They: Hold the 501(c)(3) status, conduct fundraising, apply for grants, manage donations, support programs and materials.

A Third Group- (Library Community Guild, Library Program Partners, Library Volunteers Corps, Library Community Circle, Library Ambassadors, TBD)- will be a volunteer group dedicated to strengthening the connection between the library and the community through service, hospitality, and engagement. Unlike the Friends of the Library, the Ambassadors focus on people-centered support that enhances the library's programs, events, and welcoming atmosphere.

Summer Work Program: The Director reported that through The Canaan Community Trust (CCT) the library is providing a first-time real work experience for 3 students. CCT generates their paychecks. The Canaan Foundation is one of their biggest supporters. The program runs the month of July. The students have been wonderful helpers in many areas of the library, from children's programs, organizing, custodial, and equipment assembly to name a few.

Staff Update: Training for our new staff member is progressing well, and we're excited to see them growing into their role as they support our patrons and programs. As library use continues to increase, especially with expanded activities and events, the Board discussed the possibility of adding another part-time staff member in the future. The Director noted that additional help would be beneficial; however, any staffing changes will depend on budget considerations.

Finances:

Budget: The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 has closed and reports will be shared at an upcoming meeting.

Grant Update: ReConnect / Project Justice

An update on the ReConnect / Project Justice Grant, which is being administered through UConn. The equipment order has been placed and is rolling in. Program development and implementation is in process and will roll out as additional funds are released.

Digital Navigation Collaboration: The initiative is a grant-supported partnership between Libraries in the Northwest Corner, aimed at expanding digital access and skills across the Northwest Corner. This regional effort aligns with the library's ongoing digital inclusion work and will expand the availability of structured support for patrons who need help navigating technology. It is projected to be in place beginning in October.

Librarian's Report:

Events Update:

It's a busy place! In addition to patrons we see regularly, these months bloom with new card holders, wonderful story hours, and participation in Summer Library Programming. Community businesses have generously contributed to our free summer raffle program and prizes for student readers. There is an increase in visits when the weather is rainy or HOT. The library provided much needed spaces, power, and internet for patrons and neighbors experiencing power outages associated with the recent storms.

Building Operations: The Library is addressing several building maintenance items, including repairing two windows, gathering estimates to replace the second-floor bathroom floor, and planning installation of a digital thermostat in the elevator service room before winter. We are coordinating with local businesses to complete these tasks, and the existing elevator service contract is currently under review.

Events:

Free unless otherwise noted

Summer Reading Program: For all ages, Weekly Children's Prizes and Free Summer Raffle

Art Show, Canaan Area Artists, July/August

Recommended Ages Children, all are welcome- FREE

Revolutionary Read aloud and Game afternoons **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** in July @ 2:30 pm

Summer Creative afternoons **Wednesdays** in July 2:30 pm

Button Maker, CD Wind spinners, Nature Stamping

Story Hour, Fridays @ 10:30 am

Recommended Ages grade 5 to Adult, all are welcome

SEATS LIMITED TO 12, CALL THE LIBRARY TO RSVP

Hosted by LinnyBee Creations

Wed. July 15th-6 pm Button Maker Art **FREE (Made possible by Region One Arts Grant)**

Sat. July 25th 11am Mandela Art **\$30**

Wed. July 29th -6 pm Stamp and Block Printing **FREE (Made possible by Region One Arts Grant)**

Wed Aug 5th- 6 pm Mandela Art **\$30**

Wed. Aug 12th- 6 pm Shrink Art/Advanced Friendship Bracelets **FREE**

(Made possible by Region One Arts Grant)

August Raffle Basket to benefit the Douglas Library, Drawn August 31st

Special **Train themed** Story Hour, August 7th, 10:30 am

Black Light Games, August 10th, 4:00 pm

Ice Cream Party, August 12th, 4:00 pm

Board Meeting, August 12th, 6:00 pm

Scrabble Mondays @ 6:00 pm

Scavenger Hunt - Monthly

Friends of the Douglas Library Meeting, August 15th, 1:00 pm

Douglas Book Club, The Berry Pickers, August 26th, 2:00 pm

Cocktail Party, Friday, September 18th, 5:00-7:00 pm. Confirmation of the date to follow.

Public comment: There was none.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Moran, Library Director

Received For Record 7-15-26
12:14 PM

Krystian Segalla

Town Clerk