

Douglas Library Board Meeting

August 12, 2026

Present: Bunny McGuire, Chair; Jill Godburn, Bonnie Kinsman, Laura Leifert, Rosemarie Lopez, Laura Moran, Library Director

The minutes of the July 2026 meeting were accepted as written, moved by Rosemarie L. seconded by Laura L.

Old 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. Please see previous minutes for details.

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: The museum 50% discount pass for the KidsPlay Children's Museum in Torrington has arrived and will be available for checkout.

Summer Work Program: The Director reported that through The Canaan Community Trust (CCT) the library's participation in the work program was a great success. The students have been wonderful helpers in many areas of the library, from children's programs, organizing, custodial, equipment assembly and more. We are grateful that at conclusion of the program the students have volunteered for additional time!

Staff Update: Last week welcomed our new p/t staff member Gabriela Johnson.

Finances:

Budget: The report from the town treasurer on library accounts was shared. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 has closed and reports will be shared at an upcoming meeting.

Grant Update:

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. Two digital navigators have been hired and will begin training in September. In October a digital navigator will have 3 hours per week in each of the seven libraries.

Librarian's Report:

Events Update:

The Douglas Library's 2026 Summer Reading Program was a success, engaging patrons of all ages throughout July and early August. This year's summer raffle drew nearly 300 entries, reflecting enthusiastic participation from children, teens, and adults alike. Tickets were drawn on Monday, winners were notified immediately, and many have already stopped by to pick up their prizes, adding to the excitement and community spirit of the program. We are thankful to our community donors!

Our summer programming was further enriched by a variety of hands-on activities. Families and individuals enjoyed numerous arts and crafts sessions supported by the Region One Arts Grant, which provided creative opportunities to explore materials that will be available for check out when our Library of Things kicks off. We also introduced a NASA-themed science and black-light activity that offered a fun, educational experience for children and families.

In August, the library launched a summer read-together book for youth, encouraging shared reading and discussion during the final weeks of the program. Additionally, our outstanding summer helpers hosted read louds and afternoon activities, and prepared for an engaging technology session using the Ozobot Bit Kit, giving participants a chance to explore basic coding and robotics in an accessible, playful format.

Story hours remained a highlight of the summer. Some sessions welcomed as many as 27 children, filling the library with energy and making story time one of our most vibrant recurring programs.

Overall, the combination of reading incentives, creative arts programming, science activities, and strong community partnerships contributed to a lively and successful summer at the Douglas Library.

Building Operations: The Library continues to make steady progress on several maintenance projects. Rose Hill has begun work on the attic window, and we have accepted a quote from Kent Glass for replacement of the main floor window. The front entrance threshold repair is currently underway. In addition, the alarm system received its annual inspection and is in good condition.

Events:

Free unless otherwise noted

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

Art Show, Canaan Art Guild, July/August

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

Closed for Labor Day, Monday, September 7th

Board Meeting, September 9th, 6:00 pm

Scrabble Mondays @ 6:00 pm

Scavenger Hunt – Monthly

Coloring Through the Seasons – All Ages

Puzzle and Game Swap Room -- Open

Seep Swap Station -- Collection Encouraged

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

Cocktail Party Planning Meeting, Saturday, August 29th, 1:00 pm

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

Read to Welcome, Read to Belong, Traveling Book Collection, Month of September

September Library Card Sign-up Month, New Cards Entered for Drawing on October 2nd

Youth Book Club, Erno Rubik and His Magic Cube, September 2nd, 4:30 pm *call to reserve

Cocktail Party, Friday, September 18th, 5:00-7:00 pm. *Door Prize Drawing for all RSVP

Public comment: There was none.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Moran, Library Director

Received for Record
8/19/26 4:18pm

Krystian Segalla
Town Clerk