

Douglas Library Board Meeting

September 9, 2026

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

Opening of Meeting:

Board Chair Bunny McGuire called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Old Business:

Liberty Cocktail Party: The Cocktail Party is to be held September 18th, from 5:00–8:00 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. Decorating by the committee will take place Friday at 10:00 am, September 18th. An invitation has been sent by the Director to members and the volunteer list, everyone is welcome.

New Business:

Friends of the Library: There was a meeting of the Friends on Saturday, August 15th, 1:00 pm to discuss the creation of a three-group model and discuss many ways volunteers can support the library.

Technology Program and Grant Update:

The **Project Justice Grant** continues to move forward with steady progress as we develop programming that supports equitable access to information, technology, and community resources. Work this month has focused on refining outreach goals, strengthening partnerships, and preparing the framework for upcoming workshops that will highlight digital skills, career readiness, and community empowerment. These efforts align closely with our broader mission to ensure that all residents have the tools they need to participate fully in civic and economic life.

The **Connecting the Corner Project** is nearing its launch phase, with schedules, staffing, and operational details now largely in place across the participating Northwest Corner libraries. The collaborative is finalizing weekly navigator hours, coordinated training through NDIA, and begun preparing shared resources such as

Received for Record

9/11/2026 4:01 pm

Krystian Segalla

Town Clerk

appointment systems and digital literacy curricula. Publicity will begin shortly, with regional announcements planned through local media outlets. Interest from patrons is already growing, and the libraries are preparing to welcome community members beginning October 5.

The **ConneCT DEEP Program** continues to provide statewide support for technology access, and recent updates have focused on device distribution, reporting requirements, and coordination with CSL (CT State Library). Our library has now received its shipment of laptops, which are being inventoried and prepared for circulation. We are hopeful that support items such as headphones and mice will arrive shortly. Based on current timelines, we anticipate that laptops will be available for qualified patrons seeking long-term loans in early October, with short-term patron lending expected to begin in November or December.

Finances:

Budget Update: The Director shared the Profit and Loss Statement for FY 2025–2026 with the Board. The report provided an overview of year-end revenues and expenditures, highlighting stable operating performance and consistent support from municipal and community funding sources. Board members reviewed the statement and noted that the figures will help inform upcoming budget planning and the Annual Appeal.

Annual Appeal: Board members were asked to share ideas and comments for the Annual Appeal Draft so the messaging can be finalized. The draft will be prepared by mid-October, followed by printing in early November and envelope-stuffing shortly after. All materials are scheduled for mailing on or before November 16, ensuring timely delivery to donors.

Librarian's Report: The Director reported that the library will be exploring voter registration services to determine whether it is feasible to offer on-site voter registration as a community service.

The Director requested the Board's support to participate in IMLS Library Convening 250: Telling America's Story, taking place in St. Louis, Missouri from October 14–16, 2026. This national convening brings together small and rural libraries to share strategies for strengthening civic understanding, elevating local history, and empowering communities to tell their own American stories. The

Director noted that all travel expenses will be covered by IMLS, and the library may receive an additional stipend to support related programming and miscellaneous expenses following the convening. The Board expressed full support for the Director's participation and moved the October Board meeting to October 7th to make attendance possible.

The Director prepared a series of thank-you letters to local businesses who generously supported the Summer Reading Program. Board members reviewed and signed each letter, and will deliver them personally throughout the week as a gesture of appreciation and community partnership.

Author, educator, and entrepreneur Matt Robinson has been invited to present one or more talks to launch the library's digital literacy sessions. His programs will help introduce patrons to the upcoming ReConneCT-aligned workshops and reinforce the library's commitment to accessible technology education.

The Director reported that the CT State Library Annual Report will be completed this week ahead of the October 1st deadline.

Building Operations: The Library continues to make steady progress on several maintenance projects. Rose Hill has replaced the attic window, and the order has been placed with Kent Glass for replacement of the main floor window. The painting of the main floor of the Library is currently underway. In addition, the fire extinguishers received their annual inspection and are in good condition.

Public comment: There was none.

Closing of Meeting: A motion to adjourn was made by Rose L. and seconded by Laura MC. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM with thanks expressed to all members for their continued support of the library.

Events:

Free unless otherwise noted

- **Board Meeting**, October 7th, 6:00 pm
- **Art Show**, Beth Miller and her son Dylan Vadakin, September/November

- **Scrabble**, Mondays @ 6:00 pm
- **Scavenger Hunt** – Monthly
- **Coloring Through the Seasons** – All Ages
- **Puzzle and Game Swap Room** -- Open
- **Seed Swap Station** -- Collection Encouraged
- **Cocktail Party Decorating**, Friday, September 18th, 11:00 am
- **Cocktail Party, Friday, September 18th, 5:00-8:00 pm. *Door Prize Drawing for all RSVP**
- **Douglas Book Club**, HOMEGOING, September 30th, 2:00 pm
- **Resin Art Workshop**, with Linny Bee, September 30th, 6:00 *Registration preferred
- **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
- **Matt Robinson**, Author, educator, and entrepreneur Matt Robinson to present talk to launch the library's digital literacy sessions. October 28th 6:30
- **Digital Skills Workshops**: October- December Dates TBD
 - Kick Off, Part 1 & Part 2
 - Intro to Technology, 1 & 2
 - Intro to Spread Sheets
- **Halloween at the Library**, October 30th (regular hours) and 31st regular hours and community trick or treat hours
- **Closed for Veterans Day**, Wednesday, November 11th
- **Cyber Safety: Be Aware. Be Ready.** November 13th, 1:30 pm. In person talk: Registration Required 860-824-7863
- **Holiday Party Fundraiser**: December 4th: Date to be confirmed
- **Gingerbread House Workshop**: December 7th, 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Laura Moran, Library Director