

Thomaston Public Library
Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, September 2, 2025



Attendance: Debbie April, Jen Delaney, Melanie Dobos, Barbara Lee, Mary Ann Hyres, Allyn Manning, Phyllis Nardella, Kathleen Reynolds, Kate Sileo, Katherine Turner

Not in Attendance (with notice): Kathleen Reynolds, Patrick Hyres
Also in Attendance: Amy Schumann

Call to order: 6:00 PM

Approval of minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Debbie, seconded by Allyn.

Communications:

Rita Ostrander wrote a beautiful note regarding her interaction with Nadia in the children's department. DAWS (Danbury Animal Welfare Society) thanked the Board for their donation in memory of former board member Peter Foley.

Public Comment: none

Director's Report: Cara Costello has left; we are searching for a replacement for her. We have hired a part time clerk that will be covering some evening hours and Saturdays. Julia will continue to work the remaining evenings. We have some new and returning programs this fall. We are continuing to work on outdoor maintenance. Eversource did some tree limb cutting. We still need a specialist arborist to work on the oak tree and another problematic tree. We got a grant from Thomaston Savings Bank for shelving in the upstairs conference room. We received some new requirements from the CT State Library via some new state legislation re: public library policies. We have some popular summer programs such as Mahjong. Book sale is Sunday, September 14, 2025, 11-5. We need volunteers for Sept 13 and 14th. Amy may begin to set up on Friday afternoon.

Treasurer's Report: We were under budget on the book line and we are now using a new vendor called Brodart. Baker and Taylor, our previous vendor, was getting too expensive and was cancelling many orders, causing the underuse of the budget. Maintenance items are close to budget for last year. Our fees paid to Bibliomation are paid in July for this fiscal year and that is why this line item is always nearly spent so early. We have a bunch of outstanding grants that need to be evaluated to ensure we spend all these monies in a timely manner. We will need to start working on the budget within the next few months. We may also need to address the BOF for additional maintenance dollars after our power outage resulting in a problem with the alarm panel and other water damage outside the building. Motion to accept by Phyllis, second by Debbie.

Committee Reports:

Steering: Nothing new to report. May look to get an update from TSB regarding investments. A meeting should be set up with the steering committee and The Friends to discuss some fund-raising ideas. The plaque for Lucille Killiany has been hung in the lobby. Thanks to Barbara Lee, her husband, and Mary Ann for their hard work on this project.

Maintenance: See director's report. Amy will begin to look closely around the building to assess future capital expenditures as we move closer to the budget period. We need some moulding added to the wall in the children's department as it's not been fully repaired.

Budget: Will meet in November to start the process

Personnel: New part-time employee hired, looking for library assistant for adult programming

Bylaws: Committee met and revised the bylaws per our last meeting. This was voted on by the committee.

Long-range planning: Four quotes were obtained for the Strategic Planning Proposal. A decision by the committee was to go with the Maxine Bleiweiss and Associates quote. She has worked with several other libraries in the state. She can begin in September and finish in March 2026. Vote to accept the proposal for the plan up to the amount of \$25,401.25. A motion was made by Allyn and second made by Jen. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Phyllis, seconded Kathy. 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Sileo
Secretary
