Whiting Library, Chester, Vermont

Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees

Meeting Notes – March 17, 2026

In attendance at the Whiting Library Community Room: Lyn Smith, Matt Gorsky, Polly Montgomery, Linda Diak. Zoomed in: Lora Cokolat, Penny Benelli, Staff: Nikki Geannelis, Carrie King Absent: Donna McNeill-Hudkins

Public Attendance: None

Matt called meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

Reorganization: AT first meeting after the March election, we will vote on board member responsibilities.

Chair: Matt Gorsky is willing to serve. Motion to elect Matt to chair by Linda Diak and seconded by Lynn. Approved.

Secretary: Matt nominated Donna. Linda Diak made motion to elect Donna McNeill-Hudkins as Secretary, and seconded by Polly Montgomery. No discussion, approved.

Treasurer: We asked Lora Cokolot if she wanted to continue as treasurer. Motion to keep Lora by Lyn Smith, seconded by Linda Diak.

Vice Chair: Motion to keep Lyn Smith as Vice Chair, seconded by Penny B. No discussion, approved.

Meeting Times: Is everyone good with 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. No change, all are good with it.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Penny wanted to add reviewing the resumes that have come in and want to know what the process is for hiring a new director. Matt said we will do that in Executive Session after Public Comment.

Fireplace Insert quote from the Town, move to new business. Lyn also wants to add buying more chairs so people don't have to drag in chairs from everywhere. We will make the discussion about infrastructure.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – Motion to approve by P Bennelli, seconded by Lora. No discussion. Approved. Motion carries.

TREASURER REPORT:

Thru February 28 2026. We have not received the funds from the town yet, we should have by end of March.

Total Revenue through February 28, 2026: $9,414

Total Payroll Expenses through February 28, 2026: $22,966

Total Other Expenses through February 28, 2026: $9,412

Assets:

Petty Cash: $100

Due To/From Other Funds: $62,197.10

M&T Wealth Management Account: $208,497.95

Total Assets: $301,088.32

Revenue Highlights:

- Book Sales: $474
- Non Resident Fee: $50
- Fundraising: $865
- Donations: $156
- Grants: $6,745 (we received a $500 check for the Flight Path grant)

The CD with M&T Bank, opening $30,293. It will mature in 6 months.

Wealth Management account is doing well.

$474 in book sale. Non-resident Fee's: Confirm non resident fee should be $35.00

Received a $500. Grant check for Flight Path (Birding). We know the conditions of the Grant. Carrie went through it and will do a program next week.

To let Linda & Polly know, we are taking 4% each quarter from the wealth management account. We clarified that taking the 4% is what most organizations take. We take the figures that is made from last year, take 4%, and divide it by 4, for each quarter.

We also get money from Andover in the summer (as they are on a different fiscal year). Approximately $4,000.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT: Highlight, kids library idea lab. What they would do at the library for the day if they were librarian. Asked kids and adults to get their ideas on programs, etc. She loves it.

Carrie reviewed what she usually includes in her report monthly. Report on previous month, what's coming up, and other programs. There will be an art exhibit in the Suze Forley room. 3D exhibit up for the month. On Earth Day, they'll do an art project with the kids making cardboard art.

The artist is KARI STORM.

Fundraising: Nothing to report. (note to Linda, we used your quilt as the front of the Thank You note).

Linda suggested we use it as an image for merchandising. We may also use it on the new website.

Technology Committee: Matt has reached out to several companies and is waiting to hear back.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing

NEW BUSINESS: We had asked the town to get a quote on getting a fireplace insert in the fireplace in the Suzie Forley room. It's about a $1,200. The town doesn't cover it, so the installation will be on the Library. Also have to install an electric outlet.

There are multiple levels for this. There would be any installation costs for electric in additional costs.

Do we want to go forward with this? The insert at this point would be for ambiance. We have the Mini-split in that room now to help with heat. We have to have it professionally installed as it's a public building and it needs to be covered by insurance.

Public Comments: None

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues, recruitment by Polly Montgomery, seconded by Penny. Approved.

Motion made to exit Executive Session by Polly Montgomery, seconded by Linda Diak. Any Discussion?

Motion carries.

Motion to adjourn meeting approved.

Adjourn meeting at 8:38 PM

Next Regular Meeting is April 21, 2026