

Gardiner Public Library Board of Trustees
April 14, 2026
Meeting Notes

Call to order/Introductions & Welcome

Call to order: 5:35

Present: ~~Pat Hart~~, Helen Stevens, Stephanie Duncan, Patsy Adams, Dawn Thistle, Rachel Choate, Kyle Braman, Sarah Hubert, Valerie Wallace

Discussion of and Vote to accept the January 13, 2026, [minutes](#)

Discussion of Actions and Priorities for FY26 & Ongoing Activities

- **GPL FY27 Proposed Budget:** Draft budget shared in person - not final yet. Has not gone to council yet. Dept heads in city have met with Denise. Denise will eventually present budget overview to Council. May 6, 13, and 20 will have consecutive meetings with Council where each dept will give their spiel. Dawn will present library budget on May 13. There will be one more budget workshop. First budget reading scheduled for June 3rd; 2nd for June 17th. Library only changed cost of living. Health insurance increased to a little over 10%. Cost of natural gas is terrible. We're asking for \$25k next year. Dawn will email the proposed budget to trustees.
- **Town Meetings:** Pittston (9:45) and W. Gardiner (usually noon) will be June 6. Dawn spoke with Linda Caputo, who says the budget committee is not recommending. Stephanie(?) feels that we can ask her to speak up for the library as a citizen. Linda assured Dawn that the library will be on the warrant. One possible issue is that some towns group library with non-profits ("charities") in the warrant. Pittston cards expiring tomorrow, but extending renewals to July 1st. Litchfield date is unknown. Randolph is usually last Wed in July, but hasn't been set yet.
- **Policies Sub-Committee:** Question about whether it would be helpful for folks to show up for City Council meetings (e.g., May 13) to support the library. It's been set up, but we haven't set a date yet.
- **Poet Laureate:** talked with David Lessard at the high school, and Megan Sterling had gone over there. English staff at the school are very excited. She's receiving some support from the lilac sale at the Arboretum, and the Gardiner Rotary. GPL will be hub for the poetry fest.
- **Schedule for FY27 and beyond:** Current schedule phases out this year, but we need to determine what we're going to do moving forward. Dawn has been researching how other libraries approach this...population based, census based, etc...

Library Director's Update

- Storm windows are about to go in
- Windows getting washed and paint touched up
- Marlene (Litchfield) quit recently
- Bob's last day will be May 1st
- Coffee talk is going well
- Saturday morning games has been steady, sometimes upwards of 14 people
- Construction company (CCC Construction) starting mid-May on the rear entrance project. Anticipating completing in 2 months, has to be done by August. Considering front, curbside delivery, and additional home delivery.
- Children's librarian has moved on
- Silent auction starts on May 11
- May 15th is the art walk, and folks can drop off plants for the plant sale
- May 16th is the plant sale

GLA Updates

Trustee Updates

Old Business

- Next scheduled meeting is August 18
- Sam will coordinate a town-meeting prep meeting.
- Sam will continue to add updates to the town letter draft and trustees can adjust as needed

New Business

- Christine will send [Jan 30th notes](#) to Dawn to distribute with group
- Sam will help Dawn with Patton Library budgeting research
 - [Patton Library Support](#)
- Should begin hanging signs or some sort of indication where project funds come from (grants, donations, etc..)

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:28