

Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Available by Zoom and Recorded for PEG TV

Present: Ronald Stack, Christine Sheldon, Paul Patten, Judith Gevry, Cecelia Hunt, Jennifer Jackson and Chris Donahue (PEG TV)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

The minutes of the October meeting were distributed and reviewed. Christine noticed an error. It should read that Judy and Ceil worked on the policies. Christine moved to accept the minutes as amended. Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Reports from both September and October were handed out. Discussion was held to see how we are doing in relation to current budget. 1,

Bank Accounts as of October 31, 2025

Checking Account \$66,565.96

Our CD and Money Market accounts remained the same as from our Sept report

Community Bank Internet Acct. Balance \$11,566.45

Memorial Acct. Balance \$14,870.51

CD (3) Balances total \$64,577.52

Cecelia moved to accept the treasurer's reports from September and October as written. Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Cecelia continues to work on policies. That work includes finding sample policies for those suggested by the American Library Association. One such policy is for how we handle gifts to the library.

Librarian's Report

- Genealogy Club met on October 3, 2025, with 3 people attending, next meeting will be October 3.
- Friends of the Library's book sale held on October 4, 2025, collected \$127.00. The next sale will be on November 12, 4:30pm - 6:30pm
- Book Club met on October 13, 2025, with 5 members present to discuss *On the Savage Side*. Next club will be November 10, 2025, via Zoom, to discuss *The Frozen River*
- Take and Make for October was a Zom"Bee" craft - all 60 were taken.
- Scheduled programs in October included a story time on the 10th with 8 children and 5 adult participants. Jerry Schneider's Bat Program on the 15th with 15 children and 18 adult participants. November will have another story hour on Friday the 7th at 1pm. There will be two Vermont Author Book readings and signings; Kristen Ramey with *Inez and Alex* on November 8th at 10 am and Dario Cuturo with *Maya's Hiking Trip* on November 15th at 10 am. Holiday House will be held the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, December 2, 2025; Hummin' Strummin' Ukulele band will be performing.
- The Conference Room was utilized many times; once by the Art Club for their monthly meeting. Twice trustee meetings. Two separate times for individuals to study or take classes. .
- I attended the VOKAL meeting on October 17th as required by contract to listen to updates within the library system. They will be starting many new committees which will help disseminate information and training manuals.
- October 19th the Inter Library Loan grant was submitted as well as the report from the 2024 grant usage.

- On October 22, 2025, the notice of the \$10,000 award from Carnegie was received. From communications, funds should be received in January. The Board recognized the Carnegie Corporation for their recent donation to our library. All Carnegie Libraries currently serving as libraries will receive a \$10,000 donation to be used at the Trustees' discretion.
- I noticed water on the walls in the basement after the rains the last week in October, Mr. Stack stated the wetness looked consistent with previous wall wetness after heavy rain and part of the reason the white plastic had been installed.
- Christmas gift cards for volunteers will continue. Volunteers use their cards to purchase books for the library.
- Days the Library will be closed within the next two Months: Veteran's Day - Nov. 11, Wednesday Before Thanksgiving - Nov 26 and Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 27, Christmas Eve - Wednesday Dec.24, Day Thursday Dec. 25, New Years Eve - Dec. 31, New Years Day - Jan. 1, 2026.
- **Christine moved that the library be closed on December 26th and January 2nd following Christmas and New Year's Day. Judy seconded. Motion carried.**
- Paul asked if we could do a little research for one week to get an idea of how many men use the library. Jenny agreed to do so. We can also get the information from our patron list, but he would like to see who used the library more, males or females.
- The Caring K-9s are coming to the library in November and will be here in the afternoon. They hope to make it a monthly event.
- Jenny sent out the paperwork she has been developing for new volunteers. **Cecelia moved that any new volunteers or staff members hired will need to have a background check, which will be paid for by the library. Paul seconded. Motion carried.** Those volunteers already working are grandfathered and will not need to have a check done.
- Next Trustee Meeting will be January 7, 2026

Budget Discussion:

The Board created a budget for the July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, fiscal year. This budget will be sent to the Town for their consideration at the March meeting.

The following is the report to the Town along with the proposed budget. The total budget totals \$101,814.29 and includes a 2.8% cost of living allowance raise for each employee.

Fair Haven Free Library

On behalf of the Fair Haven Free Library we would like to thank the taxpayers of Fair Haven for your continued support of our library.

The activities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year included monthly genealogy classes led by Dani Laramie and Book Club meetings on the second Monday of the month. The Department of Libraries Summer Program Grant was awarded and helped the library cover the cost of Summer Program which included story times with local celebrities and Southern Vermont History Museum – Vermont Raptors Program in August 2024.

The library, with the help of the Friends, offered many programs including; an Alfred Hitchcock Program, Holiday House, a Card making program. J.P. Murphy – Irish Program, and a lovely retirement party for Carol Scott and her many years of service to the Fair Haven Free Library.

Along with programming the library passed out 116 COVID tests in the winter of 2024-2025 and continued the Take-and-Make projects with 632 kits being distributed. The Friends of the Library also held 8 books sales this past fiscal year.

The trustees are still working on finding funding to aid in the repair of the deteriorating masonry on the main building.

The Library budget is

Library Statistics:

Circulation: 9071 Interlibrary Loans: 582 New Patrons: 60 Volunteer Hours: 1523 Programs: 37 Program attendance: 590

Respectfully submitted,

Library Board of Trustees

Fair Haven Free Library

Budget Worksheet - Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

Budget Item	2024	2025	2026	2027
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	\$49,037	\$52,796	\$52,796	54,274-29
Utilities	4,500	4,500	4,500	5,000
Fuel	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Workman's Comp	1,250	1,350	1,350	1,350
Books & Periodicals - Adult	8,300	8,300	8,300	8,300
Book & Periodicals - Juvenile	5,090	5,090	5,090	5,090
Digital Overdrive	3,500	3,500	5,000	5,500
Media – DVD/Audio	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Speakers/Programs	500	500	500	500
Travel	50	50	50	50
Repairs/Maintenance	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Inspection	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Supplies/Copier	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Computers	700	700	1,200	1,200
Membership and Dues	500	500	500	500
Automation	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000
Fiber Connect	3,000	3,000	0	0
ILL	600	600	600	600
Postage	150	150	150	150
Total	\$95,477	\$99,336	\$99,336	

\$101,814.29

Respectfully submitted,

Cecelia Hunt, Secretary