

Fair Haven Free Library
Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Present: Cecelia Hunt, Judith Gevry, Ronald Stack, Christine Sheldon, Alyssa Scott, Jennifer Jackson. PEG TV Videographer Chris Donahue Guest: Danielle Laramie

The meeting was called to order at 6PM by Ronald.

The Secretary's Report was distributed and reviewed. Christine moved to accept the minutes of the August 5, 2026, meeting. Judith seconded. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was handed out and reviewed. The question of why the encumbrances were higher this year was asked. Most of the money was for purchases and inspections that were made prior to the new fiscal year but not billed or paid. Cecelia reminded everyone that we encumber funds that are received by the town just prior to the start of the fiscal year that get us through the first quarter before the September allotment is received.

Our balance as of July 31, 2026

Checking Account	\$78,529.23	
CDs (4)	\$28,728.18; \$4,669.20;	\$32,364.42; \$14,881.63
Internet	\$10,529.29	
Carnegie	\$10,078.07	

There are two CDs up for renewal. Rates and length of CDs were discussed. Cecelia moved to renew both CDs for one year, yielding higher interest rates. Alyssa seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cecelia moved to accept the Treasurer's Report ending July 31, 2026, as written. Judith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Danielle Laramie addressed the board concerning the library's trash removal and use of the Fair Haven Transfer Station. Danielle has been taking the library's trash (1-3 bags per month on average) to the transfer station for years. This past visit she was asked to make sure she has a 2027 sticker to use the transfer station. This has never been required. Cecelia said that she would visit with either Terry Perry or Bill Humphries, who are currently serving as interim town manager and if necessary, write a letter to the Select Board. Danielle thanked the Board for addressing the issue. The Library, as a municipal entity, has never paid for the transfer station use in the past and the Board is hopeful that will continue to be the case. Christine moved to have the Board Secretary write to the Select Board requesting a free transfer station sticker for the library's use and free disposal of our trash, so that no punch card will be needed. Alyssa seconded. Motion carried.

Librarian's Report

- Genealogy Club was held on August 7, 2026, with 4 in attendance total, 2 via zoom. The next meeting will be Friday September 4.
- Book Club met in person on August 10th to discuss Braiding Sweet Grass by Robin Wall Kimmerer, 10 members were in attendance. The next meeting will be Monday, September 14, to discuss The Vatican Conspiracy by Peter Hogankamp. Working to schedule an author talk with him.

- Take and Make for August was a clay and pipe cleaner rainbow, all 60 were taken. September's is a Welcome Fall Sticker hanger.
- Scheduled programs in August included:
 - Summer Reading Story Time: Total Students: 25 Adults: 20
- August 4: Mrs. Nadler, FHGS Librarian was the guest reader. 11 students and 9 adults were in attendance.
- August 11: Mrs. Courtney Mingo, FHGS guest reader. 16 kids and 11 adults
 - Captain Aquatics Fins and Scales - Monday August 3, 2026 17 adults and 19 students
 - Lego Robotics Club started July 29 from 4-6 pm and runs each Wednesday for 4 weeks.
- Aug.5 - 5 girls and 4 adults
- August 12 - 6 girls and 4 adults
- August 19 - 6 girls and 5 adults with a parent presentation - 10 adults and 2 more students
 - End of Summer Reading party and raffle draw Friday August 14th; 6 students and 6 adults were present.
- Pre-Reader Challenger taken out: 25, returned and completed so far: 10
- Independent Reader taken out: 26, returned and completed so far: 7
- Adult Reader taken out: 29, returned and completed so far: 9
 - Vermont History Museum - Friday August 14th at noon - You Be the Historian: Investigating an 1880s Vermont Farm Family , 1 adult and 1 student
- Upcoming September Programs:
 - Storywalk in the Park with take home craft to gather from Library
 - September 19th - Friends of the Library book sale 10am - 12 pm
- Meeting room used for work space by one person (Aug.7) and for one party (Aug 15)
- Friends of the Library met on August 12th with 6 members in attendance. They chose their angel design. They also met on August 18 with 3 members, to do a book sort and on August 26 with 8 members present to start creation of the Christmas Angel. They will meet again Wednesday September 9th.
- New Horizons: I signed the new quote New Quote and spoke with the set up agent. No scheduled start date yet.
- Green Mountain Sprinklers were set to inspect the sprinklers on August 14 but they didn't show. I've been trying to reach them back to understand why they didn't show.
- Royal Group for the Fire alarm inspection happened on August 17th - all was good.
- I set up the Storywalk on Saturday, August 29. I still have some final touches to complete and will hopefully change the story weekly.
- The library will be closed on Monday September 7th for Labor Day.
- Next Trustee Meeting will be October 7th, 2026

Old Business:

- Cecelia asked that the librarian approve a request for use of the library for the winter Art Club meetings. The Art Club has been using the library for these meetings since 2020. The Board has no issue with the library use by the Art Club, but policy states that the librarian has full discretion in the matter.
- Ronald updated the Board on bids for the replacement of the side entrance door. We have had several bids. The past few bids have ranged between 4,000 and 5,000 dollars. Bids were received by Steve Lugonbuh, Rob Walker, and Mr. Coombs.

- Cecelia has been in contact with Mr. Tracy about repairs of the historic fan window in the front entrance. The librarian asked if this was part of the current grant funding being requested. The Board believes that the historic windows refer to those in the two reading rooms where the building cracks are.

Budget

The Board worked on budgeting. The biggest issue is that the oil market is volatile, there are no options this year from local suppliers for budgeting or pre-buy. The cost of fuel oil and electricity are both high and it is hard to measure the cost for fiscal year 2027 let alone 2028.

Recommendations from the librarian included reducing the amount of money in media, as very few DVDs are not taken out at the library.

The following is the current proposed budget.

Budget Item	2025	2026	2027	2028
Salaries/Payroll Taxes	52,796	52,796	54,274.29	56,011.06
Utilities	4,500	4,500	5,000	5500.00
Fuel	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000.00
Workman's Compensation	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350
Books and Periodicals - adult	8,300	8,300	8,300	8,300
Books and Periodicals - children	5,090	5,090	5,090	5,090
Digital Overdrive	3500	5,000	5,500	6,000
Media-DVD-Audio	1,000	1,000	1,000	100.00
Speakers and Programs	500	500	500	900.00
Travel	50	50	50	150
Repairs/Maintenance	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Inspections (fire, lift, sprinklers etc.)	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Supplies/Copier	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Computers	700	1,200	1,200	1,200
Membership Dues	500	500	500	500
Automation	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fiber Connect ** <i>no cost to us, yet</i>	3,000	2,000 (0)	2,000 (0)	2,000 (0)
Inter Library Loan (ILL) ***	600	600	600	600
Postage	150	150	150	150
Total	99,336	99,336	101,814.29	104,201.06

** Fiber Connect costs are covered totally by grant funding received several years ago and will continue to cover the cost until that account is depleted. Costs per annum are \$2000, but there is no cost to us and so cost is completely offset by revenue.

*** ILL costs are covered at a rate of 50%, our half of the cost is \$600 currently

Cecelia moved to submit the budget proposed with a total of \$104,201.06 which includes a 3.2% Cost of Living Allowance. The budget is about a 2.3% increase. Christine seconded. Alyssa voiced that she did not feel she has enough time to process the budget. The budget work is being done a month early due to two members of the board being absent in October. Cecelia and Christine moved to table the motion until a later meeting as long as there was sufficient time to get the budget into the town for the Town Report. Motion to table was approved.

Cecelia moved to adjourn at 7:30PM. Christine seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecelia Hunt
Secretary