

Starksboro Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 12, 2026 | 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Trustees in Attendance in person or by Zoom	Katie Antos-Ketcham, Ellen Yount, Emily Fisher, Christa Finnern, and Leah Hamilton
Others in Attendance	Cathy Townsend
1. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:44 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes	Katie made a motion to approve, and Ellen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Librarian's Report	<p>Statistics Circulation down by 100 from the previous year, closed for two holiday Thursdays.</p> <p>Operations/Budget Cathy has had to do a lot of shoveling and salting. Marty fell but is ok. Cathy will check in with Amy again. Concerned they are not coming at all on Saturdays, or not available enough. Need to emphasize this is a public space that people use on Saturdays.</p> <p>Programming Trying again for Bingo. Applied for and got the VT Humanities grant for books. 5 Town Music eventon February 19. Marty is hosting an adult card-making event.</p>
4. Current Business:	<p>Business (5-6:30)</p> <p>1. Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grant Vermont Department of Libraries congressional directive spending - \$10 million. 9.6 million available now for Vermont Libraries. Main funding for library repairs and accessibility. Minimum grant request is \$50k, hoping most would be in a range of \$100-400k. Anticipate making at least 20 awards. Deadline March 31.</p> <p>Katie has started to have conversations, coming up with questions. Would the Town support the library applying? It's a reimbursable grant, with no match requirements.</p>

We need to have minutes noting that the board is in support of applying for this. Application does not appear onerous, might be competitive (how many hours are we open? how stable is our staff? how big is the town?).

What might be considered accessibility? Work upstairs is more related to fire safety. Katie has questions whether HVAC would fit into this grant request.

Katie will talk to Susan and Amanda to follow up and bring additional questions to the board or ask for a vote. SPL seems like a good candidate, just need support from the Town Selectboard and Library Board.

2. Town Meeting planning

Library report submitted to the town. Town Meeting is February 28th, library board to remind town of hours of library, positive invitational aspect, and services available. Increase in budget for more programs and to bring wages closer to town averages. Reminder of library survey, pick up a heart.

3. Community survey

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fpO10MML816BOleI_sKfN2FqnsSNMawAhjPEQ9P6TII/edit

Reaching out before the town meeting might be a good time to ask for thoughts from the community, Valentine's theme? "Love your Library".

How are we sending out the survey?

- FPF, paper copies, town spaghetti dinner,

Re-arrange some questions, positive questions first.

	<p>Release Feb 1? Have it open for the month of February, post on FPF weekly, hearts in a basket as you walk into Town Meeting with a QR code. Here's the link, paper copies at the library, town office, and the Robinson Spaghetti Dinner on Feb. 14. Some hard copies will be available at Town Meeting FPF Subject Line: Tell us what you love about your library! Complete the survey and fill out a heart to share what you love about your library Katie & Ellen will make hearts for the library, and Ellen will bring a basket Leah will format paper copies & bring to Town Office by 2/1 2/1 Emily post to FPF 2/8 Christa 2/15 Ellen 2/22 Katie 2/27 Leah Reminder that paper copies will need to be inputted</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">4. Executive Session(s) anticipated per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(3) re: personnel Katie motioned, Emily seconded, trustees unanimously approved moving to Executive Session</p>
<p>5. Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm Christa motioned to adjourn, Ellen seconded, all in favor.</p>
<p>Upcoming Meetings</p>	<p>February 9, 2025</p>

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Fisher