

Washburn Memorial Library
Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2025

Present: Bev Turner, Cara Miller, Ed Jarrell, Christina Maynard, Laurie Blackstone, Londa Brown, Sarah Sines

Ed Jarrell called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM.

Secretary's Report:

Bev Turner moved to accept the secretary's report, seconded by Londa Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Donna was not in attendance at the meeting.

Library Director's Report:

September Statistics: Cara presented the September usage statistics. Recording accurate in-house numbers continues to be challenging. Cara is working to separate book circulation data by genre for future reporting.

Memorials & Donations:

- Multiple donations received in memory of Tom Olson.
- Stained glass piece donated by Wayne Kennard needs to be hung. Cara's husband will complete installation.

Program Updates:

- Teatime book is *Dracula*.

- Paint Party Class: December class: "Pine Porch Leaner" on December 2. Cost: \$35.

Technology:

- Router installation was successful. Susie Strout with Networkmaine assisted Cara for approximately 2.5 hours with step-by-step setup.
- Required Maine Network permissions were obtained.
- Wi-Fi now fully operational in the downstairs area and accessible outdoors with a strong signal.

Old Business:

Staffing / Maternity Leave:

- Courtney's maternity leave is expected to end on November 17. She would like to resume fall programs upon return.
- Coverage needs through November 14: Sue, Londa and Ed will help cover needed dates, with just a couple of dates still needing coverage.

Upcoming Events

Trunk or Treat:

- Vehicle needed for tailgate setup. Ed's truck will be full of pumpkins from James' Pumpkin Stand, but Sue's pickup will be available.
- Setup at 2:00 PM; event begins at 2:30 PM.
- Theme ideas: Dinosaur display with cave and flying pterodactyl decor.

- Cara will order a vehicle-mounted dinosaur head from Oriental Trading.
- Rain date: Sunday.
- Laurie will make signage.
- Ed will be in town at 2:00 for setup. Laurie, Sue, and Ed will attend and support.

Town Digital Sign Update

Prior plan was to move the town's digital sign to the grassy strip in front of the library.

The land is owned by the State of Maine, so placement is not permitted.

The town will request that the potential property buyer allow the sign to remain on their land, with the town responsible for its maintenance.

New Business:

Policy on Age-Appropriate Materials

Board discussed whether a policy is needed regarding minors accessing adult materials.

Key discussion points:

- Londa's previous experience in school libraries allowed for age-appropriate selection, but public library settings differ.
- Londa previously handled book challenges, such as a request to remove *Of Mice and Men*.

- Acknowledgment that it is National Banned Book Week.
- Londa suggested reviewing the national banned books list.
- Parents, not the library, hold responsibility for monitoring children's reading.
- Library Bill of Rights was referenced; it contains no age cutoffs and is not highly specific.
- Cara shared the challenge of balancing protection of minors with library access, especially when unaccompanied youth visit. She sometimes informs parents if she knows them but feels less comfortable doing so with unfamiliar families.
- Ed questioned whether the library could adopt its own policy restricting access to adult materials; consensus was that such a policy cannot be implemented.

Potential Solutions:

- Laurie proposed labeling adult or mature-content books with a sticker.
- Board acknowledged labels could potentially attract interest rather than deter it, but could be useful for parents.
- Agreement that school and public library standards differ.
- Topic remains open for further consideration; no policy changes made at this time.

Other Items

Handicap Parking:

- Ed inquired about paving the handicap parking area. Bev will ask Donna for an update.
- No sign currently designates the parking spot.
- Ground may freeze soon, delaying paving.

Reads to Share: Board members shared books they have recently read.

Next meeting will be November 13, 2025 at 4:15 PM.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 5:10 PM made by Bev and seconded by Laurie. Motion carried.