

Washburn Memorial Library
Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2025

Present: Sarah Sines, Courtney Howe, Bev Turner, Cara Miller, Londa Brown, Ed Jarrell, Sue Brown, Donna Turner, Christina Maynard, Tiffany Wheeler, Laurie Blackstone

Ed Jarrell called the meeting to order at 4:23 PM.

Secretary's Report: Sue Brown moved to accept the secretary's report, seconded by Londa Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Donna reported that the budget should be at 25.77% at this point in the year. A few line items (heat and electricity) are currently over budget, but all other areas are on track.

The Memorial Books line shows a negative balance of \$6.33, but this is not a concern as funds are spent as donations come in. Maine Community Foundation account showed slight losses as of the end of March, but this is expected to recover.

A donation last year from the Umphrey family was moved from Memorial Fund to Miscellaneous.

Money from the Thompson Fund can be spent on any library need. Funds from the Randall Fund are restricted to capital improvements (e.g., furnace, building repairs). This money may be used to fund bathroom updates if a grant is not received.

The library allowance for books currently stands at \$4,894.54.

Library Director's Report: Cara reported on April's circulation statistics: 296 items were checked in, 309 items were checked out and 47 items were renewed.

Memorial donations were received, including books from Carla and Bryant Rossignol in memory of Harold Marr. Another donation of books was from Pounds A Weigh in memory of L. Alexander Christie and John Dow.

The Seed Library continues with new seed varieties available. Teatime Book Club is currently reading *A Great Big Beautiful Life*, in large print. Books & Brews and Spring Yoga continue successfully. Yoga is currently enjoying 10 to 15 participants. Game Day participation is decreasing. Perhaps a pause for summer might be in order. It could restart in the fall, with a push for advertising the activity.

The cribbage board donated by Laura and Randy McPherson will be arriving in June.

A paint party is scheduled for June 26 at 5:30 PM, taught by Debbie Henderson. Two paint sizes will be offered during this 2-hour class. A minimum of 8 participants is required. Prepayment is required and can be made to Cara.

The May Maine Library Association newsletter reports that 13 positions were cut or transitioned to new positions not federally funded. They are continuing their genealogy zoom classes, led by the library's genealogist. The American Library Association is pursuing a national lawsuit regarding federal library and museum funding.

Ed commented on the slight decrease in circulation from this time last year. Cara will begin providing year-to-year comparisons.

Children's Librarian Report: Courtney shared that Storytime and the homeschool group attendance remains strong, with 18 to 20 participants. The Plant Propagation Library has been popular. Courtney may restock in the future with a larger supply. Preparations for the Summer Reading Program are underway.

Old Business: Ed contacted Senators King and Collins and Representative Golden. Londa also emailed and received acknowledgement that they received her emails. It is recommended board members reach out to local representatives Sue Bernard and Tim Guerrette, who are familiar with the town and the library.

New Business:

Flower Bed Maintenance Schedule:

- May – Laurie
- June – Cara & Courtney
- July – Donna
- August – Ed
- September – Sue

August Fest Update: The board will resume its tradition of assembling themed raffle baskets. The library board will donate a basket. Courtney will provide a basket from the Children's Library and Cara will also provide a basket from the library.

Board members will contact local businesses via letter to request a donation. Baskets must include at least one book. The letters will be available at the next meeting for distribution. A discussion will be held during the June meeting regarding a basket theme for the board members' basket.

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for June 12. The meeting time has been changed to 4:15 PM.

Bathroom Renovation Discussion: The upstairs bathroom needs urgent updates to meet accessibility and hygiene standards. The needs include: new paint, a larger handicap-accessible door, an exhaust fan with light, and soundproofing. Occasionally patrons use the bathroom for washing up. Privacy and odor issues are concerns. Cara and Courtney will present proposals next month. Cara applied for a \$7,000 grant that includes workspace and bathroom updates.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Bev Turner at 5:17 PM, seconded by Londa Brown. The motion carried.

