

Brooks Memorial Library
Board of Trustees
March 10, 2026

Present: Nikki Holland, Sirkka Kauffman, Jenny Rowe, Leo Schiff, Karen Tyler, Ann Varilly, Starr LaTronica (Director), Jeanne Walsh (staff rep.), Gemma Seymour (public).

Call to order 4:50pm

Announcements: Event at Retreat Farm tomorrow night, storytellers about being American. Art classes for seniors ended today, went very well.

Award of contract for library capital improvements grant is on Selectboard consent agenda tonight

Public Comments : none

President's Comments: National Library Week, April 19-25, April 20-National Right to Read Day, April 21-National Library Workers Day, April 22-National Library Outreach Day, April 23-Take Action for Libraries Day.

<https://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

Minutes of Tuesday, February 10, 2026: Approved

Last meeting for six-year Trustee Karen Tyler, much gratitude, she will stay on Buildings and Grounds Committee!

COMMITTEE UPDATES/ DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Friends of the Library— Karen attended, remembered the late Connie Kimball, we may consider a bench in her honor, good financial year, book sale brought in \$6200, looking for a movie to show during National Library Week, looking for new members to serve on Friends board. Bob will attend the Friends later this month.

B. Finance/Asset Development Committee— Margaret Atkinson, Chair, report from Jenny Rowe, financial report edits are in process, higher endowment spending this time of year, not a problem, it is expected. Planning for transition of grant reporting from Starr. State will be here to meet re grant on 4/6 at 10 am. Fine Arts policy being worked on. Fees policy is ready for first reading.

C. Technology Committee - Nikki Holland, Chair

Update—Talking About Tech— second session went well, topic was general Internet security and avoiding scams. Working on topic for this month, might be how to manage Brattleboro parking app. Town has new tech support system for town workers/ departments, and library is adjusting to how to get tech support for staff.

D. Buildings and Grounds— Nikki Holland, Chair— no meeting.

Update from Starr—meeting with DRB about plans related to our grant, mostly around landscaping. Next B and G meeting 3-25. Roof came in under budget.

E. Strategic Planning Committee—Ann Varilly, Chair No meeting, next meeting 3-16

F. Department Reports: Director, Youth Services, Information Services, Circulation, Outreach/Programming—Jeanne shared about news literacy at So. VT. Young Professionals and at Talking About Tech. Jeanne recommends the News Literacy Project, and shared the Rumor Guard website.

Access Brattleboro Community directory, ABC directory, is online community resource site Brooks developed over the past few years and has come to fruition. Ongoing community liaison will be Outreach Librarian Tara O'Brien

Fine Arts room (Special Collections) is much better organized now, and more prepared for presentation, digitization, etc.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Social work and safety assistance update— 69A has taken some pressure off the library in terms of servicing unsheltered folks during library hours

Director recruitment—first interviews completed, Jenny and Margaret are representing the library board on interview committee, Jeanne is representing the staff, 2nd interviews on March 24, there will also be meet and greets that trustees can be part of. Looking for a Friend and Trustee to meet each candidate, we need up to four trustees to volunteer (between 12 and 4) Leo, Ann and Margaret may be available

Fines Arts policy— still in process

Fees policy— first reading, accepted as is

NEW BUSINESS

Director transition— recruiting in process, Starr's last day tentatively April 25. Open house celebration that day.

Trustee position— will be voted on at Open Town Meeting, we have our two candidates. If one of our board members leaves early, as we suspect, the process is that the Selectboard appoints/ approves Trustees.

Photography and video recording policy— we need to review our policy, as it is outdated

Permission for teen volunteers 6-9 pm March 27- stuffed animal sleepover, board approves use of teen volunteers

Permission to open April 12,12-4 for Anna Monders' book launch— approved by board

Meeting adjourned 6:10pm