

Brown Public Library
Board Meeting August 18, 2026

Present: Dale Kunkel, assistant treasurer; Gail Hall, member; Denise MacMartin, secretary; Maryann Beaupre, chair; Nancy Peck, member; Jill Donahue, member; Sherri Brickey, librarian.

4:00 pm: Meeting called to order by chair, Maryann Beaupre.

Previous minutes: Motion to approve the July minutes made by Dale, seconded by Gail. Motion passed. Nancy and Jill abstained as they were not present at the July meeting.

Treasurer's report: The most recent report had not been distributed before the meeting. Dale is still working on the necessary changes due to the start of our new fiscal year. The new budget projections are still in progress. It was a normal month without any exception expenses or income.

Librarians' report: July was the busiest month of this year so far, for both patron visits, check-outs, and inter-library loan. A new three-week watercolor course has begun. It is a popular offering. The Central Vermont Council on Aging reached out regarding tech services for seniors. Some Sundays in the fall and early winter will be scheduled where from 10-12 where people can come and get help from Norwich student volunteers. There will be a sign-up system to schedule. The library will participate in Vermont Reads again this year. The book is a graphic novel. More details will be provided at a later date. The youth librarian also had a busy month as summer activities continued and the start of school is coming up. The summer reading program is wrapping up.

Old Business

HVAC system work continued and Sherri will reach out to confirm the status.

The handicap door issue has been resolved. Keys have been distributed to multiple staff members so that Sherri and Rebecca are not the only individuals with the ability to secure the door when needed.

The lamppost has been replaced as it could not be repaired. There was some discussion of the base, which is brass and has some value. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

There was continued discussion regarding the status of the Friends organization. One question is what happens to funds held by Friends if they dissolve the non-profit. There was discussion about how they could reconvene a board if someone in the current membership could take on a leadership role.

New Business

Welcome to our new trustee, Jill Donahue. The Select Board approved her appointment to fill the position created when Kelly Murch resigned.

Liz Thurber will return to work on August 31.

Labor Day

Gail has been going through boxes of books and sorting into categories for easier set up for the sale. A volunteer suggested starting a “military” category so that has been added. Volunteers will begin set-up on Thursday afternoon and continue on Friday. Raffle items are on display in the main library and so far, 100 tickets have been sold. Gail will talk with Trudy Boardman regarding trying to recruit Friends of the BPL at the book sale.

Executive Session

Motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue was made by Dale, seconded by Maryann. Passed unanimously. Executive session ensued.

Motion to come out of executive session made by Nancy, seconded by Dale. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 15.

4:35 Adjourn: Motion by Dale, seconded by Gail. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise MacMartin, Secretary