Brown Public Library
Board Meeting September 15, 2026

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

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

Previous minutes: Motion to approve the August minutes made by Dale, seconded by Jill. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: There was a delay in the payroll check from the town so it was necessary to use some funds (which will be paid back) to cover the BPL payroll this past month. The new fiscal year has begun and the new budget is in place. Motion to approve the treasurer's report (issued prior to the meeting) was made by Gail, seconded by Nancy. Motion passed unanimously.

Librarians' report: Only ten new library cards were issued in August. There was higher computer use than usual, and Inter-library Loan requests were also higher than usual. The watercolor course ended in August. It has been a popular offering. The tech help for seniors, arranged with the Central Vermont Council on Ageing, starts in September. The Vermont Reads program starts in October and the books are available now to patrons who wish to participate.

The youth programs wrapped up summer activities. There was a very successful "petting zoo" with instruments and a trip to Allis State Park for the awards celebration for the summer reading program. School-year youth activities, such as Lego Club, will begin now with the return to school.

Old Business

Control Technology is done with their work. Sherri will work with them to learn how to better control the system. Unfortunately, they left a bit of a mess behind which Nancy volunteered to clean up.

The roof replacement project has encountered some new requirements so there is no imminent work happening. There needs to be a district designation as a historical district in the vicinity of the library as the library cannot access the grant as a stand-alone entity. This will require homeowner agreement of a certain percentage of those living in the designated area. Tom Davis is working on this and will keep us informed. There was agreement to move this item off a monthly check-in to a quarterly check-in.

Maryann spoke with town manager Mary Smith regarding the chair replacement and there are funds that will cover the purchase of new chairs and a storage cart for the Community Room.

John will contact Mary and make arrangements to provide what is needed for the purchase to move forward.

Labor Day

We made just over $2,000 from the book sale, raffle, and the donation that Bear Pond Books made for the boxes of leftover books they took. We received a $200 donation from a patron, specifically earmarked for children's programs.

There was a Friends of the BPL sign-up sheet at the Labor Day book sale and that resulted in four new members, all of whom have high interest. Cara Gauthier volunteered to organize a meeting with the goal of establishing a board and getting the members into a coherent structure.

New Business

Nancy would like to consult with Jason Enders, designer of the Northfield logo created by the initiative of the NCDN a few years ago, regarding how it could be adapted for library use. There was general discussion about use of a logo for merchandise. There was consensus that Nancy should contact Jason for a conversation and report back to the group for further discussion.

The question of how to move things off the agenda more quickly was raised. There was discussion about how we can make this happen. Maryann will arrange to meet with the town manager every couple of months to go over any outstanding items that are the responsibility of town (the building maintenance and structure). Some items, such as the roofing project, can be moved to less frequent check in for the board. Nancy asked if we can look and our vision and future needs more methodically in order to plan. A committee consisting of Nancy, Gail, and Jill will meet to draft a vision statement.

Sherri reported on the mailing permit fee and status. There was some confusing information from the post office so she will clarify before we pay for the upcoming year. The annual appeal needs to start soon.

John has reached out to Comcast to see if they will continue to offer us free internet service like Trans-Video, Inc. had provided. He was told the request has been submitted through their process and we should hear from them in the future.

Other Business
Next meeting is Tuesday, October 20.

5:00pm Adjourn: Motion by Dale, seconded by John. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise MacMartin, Secretary