

Approved 10/21/2025

**Barrington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 16th, 2025**

Present: Trustees: Chair Susan Gaudiello, Vice Chair Lydia Cupp, Treasurer Melanie Haley, Secretary Ezra Hodgson, Karolina Bodner, Diane Madariaga, Library Director Lydia Goodwin, Alternates Karen Towne, Robert Drew, and Select Board Liaison Dannen Mannschreck.

This meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Robert made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting on August 19th, seconded by Diane. The motion passed.

Donations: September donations totaled \$46.50. Karolina made a motion to approve donations from September, seconded by Lydia. The motion passed.

Betsy Hayes, from the Barrington Historical Society, donated a number of historic books. Karolina made a motion to approve the non-cash donations of books, Melanie seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Melanie reported that the Trustee's interest bearing accounts made \$49.39 in August interest. There is also a CD coming due on 9/24/25. Melanie recommended selecting a 6 month term at 3.69% interest or 12 month term at 3.59% interest.

Robert made a motion to select the CD with a 12 month term at 3.59%, Diane seconded. The motion passed.

Select-board Liaison: Dannen Mannschreck was present and advised that discussions around the Town Budget will begin on September 20th. The ABC begins deliberation on the budget on October 15th.

Director's Report: Lydia recommended that the library increase its non-resident card holder fee from \$70 to \$100. Conner MacIver, TA, estimated that on average a Barrington household is contributing \$100-\$110 to fund the library each year. This increase is still a much lower non-resident cost than nearby towns like Dover and Rochester.

Ezra made a motion to increase the non-resident card holder fee to \$100 per non-resident household effective November 1, 2025, and Melanie seconded. The motion passed.

Lydia put together a comprehensive Library Technology Capital Improvement Plan which details replacement costs for different BPL tech over the next 5 years.

Robert made a motion to approve the Library Technology Capital Improvement Plan, and Lydia C seconded. The motion passed.

Melanie made a motion to clarify prior minutes that \$2,640 to pay for technology in May 2025 was approved by Trustees to come from the Tech Capital Reserve, Lydia C seconded. The motion passed.

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Lydia recommended a warrant article to ask voters for \$3,000 to be added to the Technology Capital Reserve. Robert made a motion to request the recommended warrant article, seconded by Diane. The Motion passed.

Lydia detailed that the BPL is in need of an additional part-time Library Assistant, 15 hours/week. There has been an increase in foot traffic and the BPL has seen large increases in patronage since the opening of the new location. Staff hours have been lower since the departure of the ILL library assistant in June. After careful review of potential candidates and their resumes, Lydia recommends Isabella Grassi. Lydia felt her resume, familiarity with the library through volunteering, and willingness to learn would be an asset to the BPL.

Karolina made a motion to hire Isabella Grassi as Library Assistant, Lydia seconded. The motion passed.

Library Building Project Update:

Until some larger expenses are paid out of the building fund, Susan advised holding on other expenditures. Outstanding bills include OneSource (security), furniture, shelving, window shades and electrical work. Eversource bill dropped from over \$1,000 in June to \$800 in July/August to \$397 in August/Sept as a consequence of the solar energy production.

There was discussion surrounding the tax rebates associated with the solar panels. Barrington Power is working on the state rebate application now, and the town of Barrington will apply for the federal rebate in 2026 at tax time. Due to the timing of the project, the federal rebate should still be in effect, even though future rebate programs have been cut. Those funds will go to the town, not the library. Susan is asking the Select Board to allocate a portion of those rebates to the Tech Capital Reserve which was largely drained this year. This would avoid the need for annual warrant articles to replenish the capital reserve for several years.

Susan and Lydia have been researching additional signage for the BPL building, and recommend considering installing "Barrington Public Library" in letters on the front gable of the building. Peter Calhoun recommended a water-proofing barrier behind the sign to help preserve the life of the siding. Bauen quoted \$1,290 for the water-proofing barrier was \$1,290. Susan will seek a quote for the actual signage from Advantage Sign. The consensus was to move ahead with this plan, rather than a free-standing sign in the lawn which would be at least double the cost.

Friends Report:

Lydia advised that October 5th is a Fall Cleanup day at the BPL. They will be planting daffodils and donated plants around the Route 125 Signage. Also, the Friends made \$1,100 from their mum sale, with 18 mums donated back to the Friends for the library and the Town Garden.

Lydia requested permission to remove the glossy buckthorn shrubbery. It's an invasive species. The board consented to the request.

Final Comments: Susan advised we will be hosting the NHLTA Trustee Roundtable on October 25th from 10:30-12:30. Susan will facilitate. There's a max attendance of 60 people, likely closer to 30-40 will be in attendance though. Different trustee members pledged baked goods and refreshments.

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There needs to be a succession plan, as Susan plans to step down from the Chair position, come March. Her recommendation is that Melanie assume the role, which would leave the Treasurer's role in need of filling. Richard was not in attendance, but his name was floated as a potential candidate for the position.

Adjourn: Ezra made a motion to adjourn at 6:50pm, seconded by Karolina. The motion passed.

Next Regularly Planned Library Trustees Meeting is October 21st.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, Ezra Hodgson.