

Orwell Free Library Meeting Minutes, Unapproved  
Thursday, March 20, 2025

Trustees present: Cindy Werner, Karen DeMoy, Becky Maden, Amy Torrey, Emily Casey; Rae Anne Barry and Sarah Harris present by Zoom link.

Trustees absent: Kathy Buxton and Ginny Wilson.

Also present: Kate Hunter, Librarian.

Cindy called the meeting to order at 7:06.

There were no citizens' comments. This was adjusted for later in the meeting. Amy, as a citizen, has concerns about theft of the unsold plants after the end of the PBB, after hearing discussion of this topic recently.

Becky moved to accept the meeting minutes from the February meeting with no changes, Cindy seconded, passed.

Amy moved to accept the treasurer's report with no changes, Emily seconded, passed.

Kate presented the Librarian's report:

**Monthly Usage, January**

Total users: 564

Program attendees: 217

Collection borrows: 440

Volunteer Hours: 32.5

ILL sent: 11, ILL's requested: 22, 2 book discussion sets exchanged

**News and updates**

Orwell Food & Farm Fest will happen on July 6 and September 7. The Orwell Artist group will host an Art Fest on the green in August. We have funding remaining from last year to pay for the music at one event. I'll continue looking for additional funding/sponsors to pay for 'Orwell Bucks' and the music.

Orwell Community Learning Garden is happening again this year thanks to our local Master Gardener Karen DeMoy. We will get a port-o-potty for that program and our Fests to be placed at the end of June. I plan to offer 2 story walks behind the school this summer, as well.

Right now I'm planning the July summer programming schedule. The theme is Art. We will offer family programming on Tuesdays from 4-5. Tween & teen programming from 6-7. Story time on Fridays at 10:30am. Orwell Community Learning Garden on Thursdays at 10am.

Orwell Village School and Orwell Artists have art exhibits coming up. OVS will exhibit starting mid April. Orwell Artists show will open on Saturday, May 17 at 7pm. The theme is art of or inspired by Orwell.

The Orwell Fortnightly group has been meeting at the library. They have a resurgence of members and are struggling to meet at members' homes because of the number of attendees. We are happy to host.

**Building updates**

Pearl Hill Construction have begun working on the indoor accessibility projects to spend down the remaining ALA grant funds. They are moving fast and will have an invoice for us in the coming week.

The Wright Memorial Library Board had a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19. I haven't received any updates yet.

### **Upcoming Events**

Fly Tying with Liz Orr, every other Wednesday through March at 6pm  
History Club with OHS for 4th-6th graders, Tuesdays at 2:45pm  
Shibori Workshop - Saturday May 29 at 10am  
Nature Club for 1st-3rd graders begins April 1  
Green Mountain Boys and the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga - April 15 at 7pm  
May 17 at 7pm - Orwell Artists art show

### **Recurring:**

Fiber Crafters Meetup, second Tuesdays at 1pm, 4th Tuesdays at 5pm  
Homeschool Group - Thursdays at 10am  
Story Time - Fridays at 10:30am  
Coffee Hour - Fridays at 9am  
All Ears with Doss reading program, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 4pm  
Acoustic Jam Open Mic - 2nd Wedn, 7-9pm  
Teen Advisory - 2nd Thursdays in December and January at 7pm  
Book discussions - last Thursday of the month  
Music with Anna - 1st Saturday at 10am (no music in April)

### **Sustainable Library Initiative:**

We are currently at 48% compliance in the certification process. The next step is to work with the WMB to better understand our electricity usage, and how to utilize it better, or with more efficiency. Kate will be doing a presentation at the VLA meeting in May discussing the Sustainable Library Initiative, and our Library's involvement through the Food and Farm Fest, specifically.

### **Capital Project Committee:**

Jim has received communication from Nelson Martell that work is moving forward. The REDI Grant (\$7,500.00) will cover his consultation fee. The next meeting for Capital Project Committee will be on April 3, 2025.

### **Old Business:**

See the Trustee Onboarding Checklist for new Library Board Trustees. Great job, Kate, getting all this information in one place, and easy to follow!

Discussion on the "library Director" position/name change. Emily made a motion to change the current position from "Librarian" to "Library Director", keeping the current staff in place, Amy seconded the motion. After discussion, it was determined that we need more information before we officially move forward on this process. Becky, Emily, and Karen will look into this further, including a discussion with the Orwell Select Board, a consultation with Joe Andriano on any legal issues, as well as looking at our By-Laws to make sure we are compliant. Emily withdrew her prior motion, and this topic was tabled until the April Trustee meeting.

ALA Transforming Communities Grant: There had been funds from this grant that were not used, and their use was approved by the WMB to make accessibility changes within the Library building. These are currently taking place, including updating the doorways, doorknobs, and installing coat hooks. This work is being done by the Pearl Group (see Librarian's Report).

Supplies needed for the upcoming 2025 PBB Sal.: Kathy currently has the list of supplies, but is absent tonight. We do know that we need two silicone/non-stick safe spatulas for the GF grill, as well as cups. It was suggested that this list be updated at the end of the Fall Harvest Sale, in order to be ready for the spring sale.

New Business:

Election of officers: Emily moved to elect Sarah Harris as secretary, Amy seconded, passed. Karen moved to keep the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer positions with the same current individuals, Cindy seconded, passed.

PBB: Emily will speak with Jessie W. about potentially digging some perennials on her property. Kate will speak with the Russells in Sudbury to see if they will allow us to dig perennials from their property. There was discussion regarding ideas of preventing theft between the hours of closing and before we are there again on Sunday for the parade. This has always been an issue, but with the reputation of the sale growing, it seems to have escalated in the past few years. We will discuss this again throughout the spring, and any ideas will be entertained.

The next OFL Trustee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the OFL and on Zoom.

Amy moved to adjourn, Emily seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:08.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen DeMoy, past secretary