



South Burlington Library Board of Trustees

Approved Minutes July 9, 2026

The Library Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on July 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm, in the Library Boardroom, and by Zoom.

Members present: Anne LaLonde, Ted Lenski, Christy Liddy-Repstad, Holly Painter, Stacey Pape, Marty Reid, Rebecca Stazi, Donna Swartwout, Leslie Van Wagner, Brenda Withey

Absent: Whitney Kirzinger

Also present: Bree Drapa, Library Director, Merry Jones, President, Friends of the Library

1. Call to Order at 5:30 pm
2. Review of Library Exits
3. Comments and questions from the public not related to items on the agenda

None

4. Additions and deletions to the posted agenda

Move agenda item 8Ci to 12C

5. Approve regular board minutes of June 11, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting

Upon a motion made by Trustee Stacey Pape and seconded by Brenda Withey, the Trustees voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting.

6. Welcome and Chair remarks

Chair Ted Lenski welcomed new and returning board members to the meeting. He informed the board that outgoing Trustee Margery Vagt would not join the meeting tonight. In keeping with the long standing tradition of honoring Trustees leaving the board, Bree had selected the new edition of the book Vogue Knitting to honor Margie's time with the SBPL Board of Trustees. Her account will be flagged when the book is in circulation. The Trustees expressed appreciation for Margie's support and dedication to the library.

Before having new board members introduce themselves, Ted said it was an exciting time for the SBPL. We have a new amazing Director who is providing a new vision and perspective, the Board is working on its strategic plan and our work is to support the mission and the vision of the community.

On behalf of the City, Bree reminded the Trustees to complete the stipend form (for new Trustees) returning Trustees should be all set. Bree also asked for head shots of the new Trustees and any updated ones for returning Trustees. She would update the website. It was also suggested that the Board find a time to take a new group photo.

6.A. Welcome New Board of Trustees

Leslie Van Wagner (3 year term) and Christy Liddy-Repstad (2 year term) introduced themselves and expressed their excitement to join the SBPL Board of Trustees. Both bring solid skills and experiences to enhance the Board's work.

6. B. Welcome Returning Board of Trustees

The Chair thanked Anne LaLonde (3 year term) and Stacey Pape (3 year term) for returning to the Board of Trustees and acknowledged their good work over their years of service.

It was repeatedly expressed as current Trustees introduced themselves to the new Board members, how positive the experience was for each of us working on this board. Each expressed, there are good working relationships and a very strong belief in the SBPL.

7. Election of Board of Trustees Officers

At this time in the meeting, outgoing Chair, Ted Lenski turned over the running of the meeting to Bree Drapa so that the board could nominate its officers.

Chair - Ted Lenski
Vice Chair - Anne LaLonde
Secretary - Donna Swartwout
Treasurer - Brenda Withey

Upon a motion made by Trustee Donna Swartwout and seconded by Marty Reid the Trustees voted unanimously to accept the slate of officers as listed above for the Board of Trustees for the upcoming year (2026-2027).

The meeting was returned to the Chair who expressed appreciation for the board's support of his work and all of the officers.

8. Committee Selection

Each committee chair provided an overview of the work of their committee. There was appropriate friendly competition in the description of the committees. The Chair encouraged the new members to consider and would accept their decisions at a later time. Both Trustees Leslie Van Wagner and Christy Liddy-Repstad were able to select their committee with no concerns.

Finance Committee - no new members
Communications Committee - Leslie Van Wagner
Governance and Nominating Committee - Christy Liddy-Repstad

Upon a motion made by Trustee Stacey Pape and seconded by Brenda Withey the Trustees voted unanimously to accept the new board members to their respective committees as listed above.

Bree will notify the City and update the website. The Chair reminded each committee to

nominate their chair at their next respective meetings.

9. Friends of the South Burlington Library Report (written report submitted by Merry Jones)

June Bookshop Totals –

Shop = \$343.46

Kiosk = \$577.08

Total = \$920.54

StoryWalk Project Complete – Sue Raatikainen and I (Merry) placed the 19 laminated book pages in their frames along the shared walking path in the new City Center Park on June 19. The official grand opening ceremony for the park and the StoryWalk was held on July 7. Many thanks to Erin Davison, SBPL Children's Librarian, for sharing her creative talents and her meticulous work laying out the book pages and laminating them to fit the frames exactly. We will be changing the book seasonally.

Our focus and efforts now will shift to preparing for our upcoming annual book sale which will be held on Oct 9-11.

During the meeting Merry encouraged the Trustees to submit fiction books for the book sale. Trustee Stacey Pape reminded everyone to become a member of the Friends of the Library.

10. Foundation Report (Anne LaLonde)

The Foundation finished its fiscal year on June 30. Before that date we gave two checks to the library. One was for \$10,750, which was the final regular budgeted payment of the fiscal year. The other was for \$20,000, from our capital reserves, for the improvements to the Hangout space. And the last donations for the Spring Appeal have come in - we made around \$1700.

Anne also explained to the new Trustees that the Foundation supports the gift account which Bree can use for things not related to staffing. Ted also reported that the Foundation has had an exceptional year in fundraising.

11. Library Director's Report (Bree Drapa)

Bree reminded the Trustees that the Library would be celebrating its 5 year Birthday celebration and encouraged everyone to join the festivities on Saturday July 11th.

Bree is coordinating the job search/interview for the Youth Services Librarian (Erin Davidson's position). There have been 50 applicants, and she hopes to finish the process and make an offer in the coming days. Bree reported being very happy with the direction of the search process.

There have been staff challenges due to illnesses, vacations, and being busy. Good cross training has happened so that staff can support in a variety of departments/locations as needed. The library did give up 3 sub positions to staff a position to be open on Sundays. We may need to consider options as we prepare for the FY 28 budget.

The new fiscal year has begun and Bree said that the books won't officially close until August. She will provide final fiscal year data at a later date. She is meeting with Brenda next week for more budget work.

New Vermont library laws were passed this session - S.232 and S.209. Bree would like to have these two laws as future agenda items to provide trustees with more information. S.232 did

establish VT Library Day as the 3rd Monday of October. This year's will be October 19.

There has been an uptick in "soft" challenges - book challenges that don't actually become formal challenges. This has caused some stress for staff and escalating interactions with some patrons. Bree asked the Trustees to review the [Collection Development Policy and Request for Reconsideration](#). Trustees have a role in this process, so we need to be informed. Bree recently reviewed the process and procedures with staff.

Finally, Bree shared the stats (instagram below) of the past year and some comparison data from 2025. We have much to be proud of and celebrate. This information will help us share the library's story with the community and advocate for staff. Upon the completion of sharing the numbers that Bree discussed, the Board applauded Bree and the staff's work, efforts and success.

Highlights:

- 15% Increase of visits to the library
- 10.5% increase of website visits
- 8% increase of public computer sessions
- 36% increase in items checked out
- 25% increase in non-library meeting attendees
- 5% decrease in library programs
- 14% increase in new cards this year

There was a brief discussion at the end of Bree's report about the scholarship that Bree applied for and was awarded for the Trustees to attend a webinar on July 28 and 28. Currently Ted Lenski and Anne LaLonde are registered. Trustees will be invited to attend sessions upon request sent to Anne LaLonde. There are sessions specific to foundation work and Friends of the Library.

SOUTH BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FY26 IN REVIEW



142,283

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY



115,996

WEBSITE
VISITS

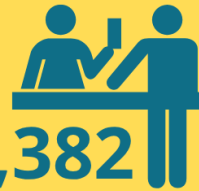
6,731

PUBLIC
COMPUTER
SESSIONS

814
PROGRAMS
OFFERED



13,417
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



279,382

ITEMS WERE CHECKED OUT



1,661
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



2,022
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



51,150
DIGITAL
CHECK OUTS

12,877

ACTIVE
BORROWERS

1,997
NEW CARDS
THIS YEAR



4,974

VOLUNTEER
HOURS



16,370

NON-LIBRARY
MEETING
ATTENDEES

3,854

BOOKS, DVDs,
AUDIOBOOKS, &
OTHER ITEMS
ADDED TO OUR
COLLECTION



12. Committee Reports

12. A. Finance

Brenda reported that she and Bree will meet next week to continue to work on the FY28 budget. The stats that Bree shared will help inform the budget requests.

12. B. Communications

Holly talked about the various tabling events that were happening throughout the summer. Posters are finally ready to be distributed. [Here's a link](#) for Trustees to complete. Holly encouraged everyone to talk to a person and update the success of our attempts.

Holly reported that Pride Parade was happening - September 13 and SBPL will participate. More information to come!

12. C. Governance and Nominating

Marty reported the committee briefly reviewed the gift account and the by-laws and will take up further discussion in the July meeting.

She explained the proposed changes in the policy that the Trustees were to review and vote upon. The most substantial change was adding the Board Room, the Pickard Quiet Room to locations where food/drink may now be consumed. There was a brief discussion on the food fee whether it needs clarity and review. For now the committee suggested that the Board approve the policy as currently drafted and table the fee discussion for a later time.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Anne LaLonde and seconded by Holly Painter the Trustees voted unanimously to accept the Room Rental, Usage Policies and Procedures.

13. Strategic Plan Development

Given the lack of time left in the meeting, Ted suggested that the Trustees consider three options for moving the discussion forward:

Special Meeting

Sub committee

Go longer for the regularly scheduled meeting

The Trustees agreed to find a time for a special meeting. Ted will send an email with a google calendar poll to find a time that a majority of Trustees can attend. He still hopes we can complete this process by December. The Chair has shared some of his ideas in the document with a few details flushed out. Ted said this was just a starting point and Trustees should add their own.

14. Other Business

None

15. Adjourned at 6:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Swartwout

Secretary, SBPL Board of Trustees