



South Burlington Library Board of Trustees

Draft Minutes October 8, 2026

The Library Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on October 8, 2026 at 5:30 pm, in the Library Boardroom, and by Zoom.

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

Absent:

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

11. Strategic Plan

5. Approve regular board minutes of September 10, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting

Upon a motion made by Trustee Anne LaLonde and seconded by Trustee Holly Painter, the Trustees voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting.

6. Welcome and Chair remarks

The Chair, Ted Lenski, expressed appreciation for the entire board's response and support of the library while he was away. He gave a special shout out to Anne in her role as Vice Chair. Ted acknowledged Bree Drapa's one year work anniversary with SBPL. We are very proud to have her working at our library. Bree has brought a new perspective, motivated her staff and done a remarkable job in one year. Ted thanked Whitney Kirzinger, Anne LaLonde and Donna Swartwout for their work on the strategic plan. There is now a one page concise plan for the Trustees to review. Ted shared his gratitude for all those that participated in the Pride Parade. It was a terrific event and the staff really felt like it was successful.

Ted and Bree reminded the Trustees to complete the city survey regarding the budget

process. Bree shared that Brenda did a very nice job representing the library's needs at the City Council meeting.

Ted discussed the Banned Books article he had shared with all Trustees ([Banned Books 2026](#)). He reminded the Trustees we all have a role to play in keeping all books on our shelves.

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

Friends of the SBPL Report for the Board of Trustees – August and September 2026

Book Sales Total for August 2026

Book Shop - \$177.00

Kiosk - \$379.00

Total - \$571.00

Book Shop Total for September 2026

Book Shop - \$267.00

Kiosk - \$519.46

Total \$786.46

StoryWalk Update – We have changed out the featured book for fall to *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Hemming, a humorous book about a frantic squirrel who thinks someone is stealing the colorful fall leaves off his tree. One of his forest friends, Bird, explains that the leaf thief is actually the wind and that this is a normal cycle of nature.

Book Sale – All hands on deck! Helpful Scouts and Friends volunteers are currently setting up for the sale, which will be held in the Community Room of the library on Friday, Oct. 9 from 3:00-5:00 PM (special preview sale for Friends members), Saturday Oct. 10 and Sunday Oct. 11 for everyone from 10:00-2:00 PM each day. Come and shop – we have lots of great books of all genres for all ages at bargain prices!

During the meeting, Merry shared that there were lots of positive comments as they were putting up the new StoryWalk book. It seems regardless of age, everyone is loving the new addition to the park.

Merry told the Trustees that they had several Scouts and moms come and help set up the books for the booksale. It really made a big difference. She also acknowledged the raffle items are coming from Judy's Ice Cream and The Scale Restaurant. She encouraged all Trustees to come to the Booksale.

8. Foundation Report (Anne LaLonde)

Anne shared that John Simpson, a long time library supporter and Foundation Board member passed away in late September. The Foundation and the Trustees acknowledged John's incredible contributions to the SPBL.

The Foundation had a Hang Out Space launch party on October 5th. The Annual Appeal is

to be sent out in early November. The Foundation received a surprise unrestricted gift of \$5,000 from a foundation in CT. The Other Paper will have an article that illustrates how Foundation donations support the library.

9. Library Director's Report (Bree Drapa)

Bree acknowledged the Foundation purchased milkshakes that are being delivered to the library staff meeting to celebrate National Library Day (celebrated on October 19) and the terrific job with the Koha transition.

Bree shared the City is looking at all fees as a part of the budget process. Some library fees have not been increased in a few years. She is going to look at other fee structures by other libraries and the Board can review and discuss to see if some additional revenue/increased fees are appropriate.

Nicholas Storellicastro is the new Deputy City Manager and is now Bree's direct supervisor. Nicholas is taking departments located within city hall and Jessie Baker will take departments outside of city hall. Bree is very pleased that under Nicholas's direction, there is talk of a whole building policy for a code of conduct. She will ensure that this proposed policy does not conflict with library policy. It is a really good first draft and very collaborative with others. Once the policy is approved they will work on the procedures and processes. Bree reminded the Trustees that only the City Manager and Deputy City Manager can trespass someone from the building (which includes the library). Ted and Anne will join Bree at a later meeting to meet Nicholas and review the MOU.

Bree would like the next board meeting to include an agenda item for the Trustees to learn about S209 - civil unrest in sensitive places. She attended training and is rewriting some procedures that affect the library's work in the building.

Bree shared some data about daily visits; it shows that regardless of day, there is on average about 50 people in the library during one hour. She indicated that on the weekends it is hard to get people to leave at 3 pm. The library opened for Sundays in January and the fact that the numbers are comparable to the other days shows the need is being met.

Day	Daily Average	Average/Hour
Saturday	339.16	56.53
Sunday	288.55	48.02
M-F	512.23	51.2

Bree shared some excellent data about the library's budget. She indicated the Trustees might want to consider increasing room rental fees. [Quarter 4 Budget Narrative](#)

10. Committee Reports

10. A. Communications

Holly and other members of the Communications committee shared they have a potential name change for when the By Laws discussion happens; they expressed appreciation to Stacey and others for a well done Pride Parade; tabling continues to go well with the most

Curriculum Night and Al's FrenchFries being viewed a success. There was a discussion about having more things to give away and some interactive activities to engage the public with at the table -- maybe bring some Library of Things to the event. Holly and Ted reminded the Trustees to check the tabling spreadsheet to sign up for future events. [Tabling](#)

10. B. Finance

Brenda shared the draft Library budget for the FY 27-28 fiscal year. Bree has submitted this draft to the City and reviewed the time line established by the City. Bree explained that while the budget reflects only one significant request (weekend sub), the budget process required her to explain each change for example, from 19- hours to 20 hours. The budget as presented maintains the status quo. The request for the weekend coverage is to meet the demands of being open on Sunday which is something the community wanted.

It allows for some cracks to be filled by increasing some staff positions by one hour to cover staff meetings or training. This budget will not increase programming or other services offered to the community. There is one noticeable exception, the addition of hours to the children's services will increase some key early literacy services. The Board and Bree have been sensitive to the demands of the growth of the City and still ensuring safety in staffing needs and meeting the growing needs of the community.

The Trustees discussed the increase in on line and subscriptions cost compared to the cost of books for adults and children. Bree explained the cost of books for libraries is very expensive.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Brenda Withey and seconded by Trustee Donna Swartwout, the Trustees voted unanimously to approve the Library budget FY 27-28.

Ted expressed appreciation for Brenda's and Bree's work on the budget!

10. C. Governance and Nominations

Marty shared the Gift Policy for the Trustees to review and discuss. No concerns were expressed. [Gift Policy](#)

Upon a motion made by Trustee Leslie Van Wagner and seconded by Trustee Brenda Withey, the Trustees voted unanimously to approve the Gift Policy.

The discussion of the bylaws will happen at the next Governance Committee Meeting.

11. Strategic Plan Development

Ted expressed appreciation for the strategic plan working committee. He reminded us of the process from the sticky notes to 6 buckets for goals to now, this one page 4 goals document. He asked each Trustee to review the document for a full discussion at the next board meeting with the intent/hope to approve it. Ted will ask to be on the agenda for the November 16 City Council meeting to share the strategic plan.

Some quick points by Trustees: need to add something about Collections and tie the staffing capacity to budgeting process.

12. Other Business

None

13. Adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Swartwout
Secretary, SBPL Board of Trustees