Director's Reports

Minutes of the Library Trustee Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

at the Leverett Library

Meet to walk-through the park together! Please come right at 7 p.m.

Approval of June 10 meeting minutes Joan moved to accept, Judith seconded. Motion passed.

Trustees planned schedule of minute takers for the following future meetings:

October: Judith, November: Lisa, December: Joan, January: Seth, February: Rachel, March: Chris, April: Lisa, May: Joan

Present: Hannah Paessel, Joan Godsey, Lisa Sullivan-Werner, Carolyn Anderson, David Henion, Judith Davidov, Rachel Flint, Chris Condit.

Trustee Business:

Proposed MCC Cultural District – David Henion presented a project he has been working on to create a Leverett "Cultural District" and apply for a grant from the state that is available for this purpose. Cultural districts have 3 elements: historic buildings, cultural areas, and cultural areas. There are grant applications being taken from the state for developing this type of project, and the town would need to complete this application process. There are various historic buildings in town (Saw Mill, Congregational Church, LCA, Field Family Museum, etc), there are conservation areas (Gutter, Pond, Trail System), and Cultural areas (Library, Peace Pagoda, Coop, etc.) Once the application is completed, there will be two public comment meetings. Once the town submits an application, the state would send people to check out what we have. If the town were to be awarded the grant, the state would provide money to the town to support the"Cultural District."

David is asking if we want the library to be part of the cultural district and if we could hand out maps and materials. Also he suggests that a representative from the library could come to public comment.

Joan made a motion for the library to accept and support this initiative. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FY27 Proposed Closed Dates:

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day
Thursday, December 31 – New Year's Eve
Friday, January 1 – New Year's Day
Saturday, Late April / Early May – Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, June 19 - Juneteenth

Joan made a motion to approve the list of dates for closing that Hannah presented. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates:

Grounds Project:

- Omasta has completed their installation work and are now responsible for the health of the landscaping for one year.
- Larochelle (stage contractor)
  - The back ordered metal posts have arrived
  - Has set up fencing and delivered some supplies to the site.
  - The electrician is starting to run internal electrical lines.
  - We do not currently have an estimate for completion.
  - We should discuss alternate grand opening plans.
- The Bike repair station has arrived. The DPW will install it into the end of the sidewalk under the light.
- The additional benches purchased through the Friends fundraiser have arrived!
- We are waiting on the plaques.
- Chat Bench final grant report due: we will ask about filing another extension.

Hannah suggested waiting until the spring for a grand opening. The walk will not be maintained in winter.

Carpet Replacement:

- Success! The carpet has been successfully replaced. We have a small collection of replacement squares.

Grants Awarded:

- MCC – $2,500 Creative Experiences grant. Collaborating with the Orange Launch Space to bring 5 craft workshop opportunities to our community.
- Green Communities Grant. To replace the moldy insulation in the attic.

FY27 (about FY26) State Reports: (see overview handout)

- The ARIS and Financial reports are part of our annual application for State Aid.
- We have met our compliance requirements.

State Level Updates:

- Freedom to Read is now Massachusetts state law
- State Budget included an increase to support libraries.

FRIENDS UPDATE

The Fats Waller program will be rescheduled from October 17th to another fall Saturday to give the opportunity for people to attend the memorial for Cheryl Howland.

The annual basket fundraiser will be held as usual around the holidays.

Director's Reports:

FY26 Deposits / Expense Review

Account	Deposits/appropriation	Expenses	Notes
General Expenses	$34,469	$31,572	2,897 (encumbered)
Wages	$88,331	$89,461	State Aid for difference
Building	$24,466	$19,844	4,622 (encumbered)
State Aid	$6,605	$3,340	Bike repair & payroll (balance $28,895)
Gift	$11,143	$4,160	FoLL, programs, donations, room use.

Bequest Detail	$0	$16,280	Park bills
Revolving - Fines	$21	$142	FY25 Eversource bill paid
Revolving – Printing/Use	$0	$532	Paper, toner, etc.
Community Preservation Grant	$374,529	$311,884	Omasta construction
*Encumberances (to be spent this fiscal year)		$7,519	For painting, sound system and FY26 electric bill

Circulation Statistics

July-August 2025	Service	July-August 2026
5,806	CWMARS	5,389
1,935	Libby	2,033
221	Kanopy	317

Summer Reading 2026

Band	2025	2026
Orlen, Gabriel, and Avery	14	12
Stamell Brothers	64	21
Box Shop Duo	35	12
Masala Jazz	15	4
Juggler Meadow Band	28	15
Rattlesnake Gutter Guttersnipes	8	12
Same Old Blues	n/a	31
Bruce Colegrove	6	9
French Press	45	22
On the Lam	48	30
Average	**29**	**17**
Total	**263**	**168**

Raffle Participation

Age Group	Entries by age
Kid 0-5	94
Kids 6-11	255
Teen 12-18	38
Adult 19+	258
Total entries	**645**

Age Group	Unique participants by age
Kid 0-5	40
Kids 6-11	52
Teen 12-18	15
Adult 19+	106
Total entries	**213**

Other programs:

Can you be a Busy Beaver?	17	Firetruck visit	48
Teen Book Boxes	8		

Community Read:

Beaverland 50 checkouts / What goes on inside a beaver pond? 64 checkouts

Staff & Volunteers:

- We had a very successful full day training which included learning basic fire safety and CPR with Chief Visniewski and Shelly.
- We also did a focused training specifically on Kanopy and plan to continue having focused trainings on specific library services and functions.

Meetings & Programs:

- The Summer Reading program was a resounding success. The largest increase in participation was with preschoolers, but the other age categories were also very involved.
- Thanks to the Friends for their very generous support of the popular raffle prizes and for supporting local artists in the Summer Music concerts.
- Exhibit: The Mini Art Show was very successful! Now Ezra Wilde is displaying their art in the community room through the end of October.
- Coming up: Reptile Petting Zoo and Looking out for Scams.

Building:

- Exterior and Interior painting is up next.

Technology:

- New wifi access point now provides wifi and wifi calling through half the field.

Other:

- Mary Alice Wilson's collection of bird art and books is going to be put up for auction. This is a co-fundriser for the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust and the Friends of Leverett Library. Eva Gibavic is the conduit, but needs help.
- Steve Weiss, on behalf of the finance committee and alongside the select board, has asked department heads to give a big picture view of what has changed in the past 10 years. Our portion of the town budget went up a little over this time. We were 1.3% in 2016, and 1.5% in 2026. Our staffing levels have changed. We were extremely understaffed. We are now fully staffed.

Old Business

Next Meeting: October 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Chris moved to adjourn. Joan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Flint