

Topsham Public Library Board of Trustees
Business Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026

Present: Philip Dostie, James Doyle, Barbara Swiderski, Erin Arneson, Stephen Diamond, Laura Miller, Pamela Mott, Brian Alexander, Heather Helenora, Michael Snow, Miles Dailey, Director Katherine Webber

Absent: Donald Stein

Members of the Public Present: None

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02 PM by President Philip Dostie
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Heather moved to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Laura. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
3. **Consent Agenda:** It was noted that Brian Alexander was marked as present at the February meeting, but he was absent. Heather requested that last names be used in the Development and Outreach Committee notes as are two people named Heather who serve on that committee. Barbara moved to accept the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Erin. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** There was no meeting this month as the financial reports were not ready. Utility bills are slightly higher than budgeted due to extra usage this winter. The Budget vs. Actual Report shows most line items where they should be at this point in the fiscal year. The budget presentation to the Select Board went smoothly this year. The Finance Committee will invite someone from the Maine Community Foundation to attend a future meeting to assist with better understanding of how our funds are managed.
5. **Prospective Board Members:** Two members will be leaving the Board at the end of June 2026. That would leave nine trustees, so we would not need to select any applicants if they were not deemed acceptable. It is recommended, however, that we invite one, two or three to join the board if we have good candidates. We were reminded that two more will be termed out in 2027. Please encourage friends and neighbors to apply if you think they might be interested in serving on the Board.
6. **Updated Gallery Policy & Waiver:** The Board reviewed the current policy as well as the revision worked on at this month's Governance Committee meeting. A suggestion was made to modify the waiver in the third bullet point under "Use Rights & Release of Liability" to include parentheses around "*not the Topsham Public Library or any member of the staff.*" Erin moved to approve the policy and waiver as amended, seconded by Barbara. Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Monthly Statistics: no questions or concerns
 - b. The Friends: Emma Gibbon attended their meeting in place of Katherine. A speaker from the Portland Camera Club will open the Joy of the Lens reception. They have invited Dr. Phyllis Blackstone, a storyteller/writer to speak at their annual meeting on April 2nd at 6:00 PM. The Chocolate Church offers passes at

Patten and Curtis Memorial Libraries in a pilot program. If all goes well, they would like to include TPL in the program.

- c. State of Libraries: A pin will now be required for your Minerva account to request or put a hold on books/materials.. The staff can help you change your pin if you forget it, but they do not have access to the pin you set up. Our social media posts are being followed, and many followers are not TPL users, so we are excited to be reaching those people. This is one of the goals in our long-range plan. There is currently a book challenge in the Gardiner school system geared toward LGBTQ+ material. We will be keeping an eye on how this progresses. Legislation to watch on the federal level is H.R. 7661, Stop the Sexualization of Children Act, which was introduced in the House on February 24, 2026.
- d. Staff/General: The grant application has been submitted to Maine Women's Giving Tree. Katherine and Mariah are working on how to track the usage once the grant has been approved. Clinton McDowell has accepted the Circulation Supervisor position and is expected to start April 1st. He is currently employed at Curtis Memorial Library. Music in March featuring Steamboat Ridge (Mariah's band) was well attended this past Saturday. The next performances will be Castlebay on March 21 and Bassoonist Lindsey Wiehl playing Beatles tunes on March 28. Emma has arranged for a new series of Community Conversations to begin on March 26 at 6:00 PM. The first topic will be Food, Farms and Families. Joy of the Lens closes on March 21st and the reception will be on April 4th. The last day for AARP tax assistance is April 6th; all slots are filled. There will be a presentation by Larry Clifford on April 11th promoting the quilts he makes from used books.
- e. Notes from Staff Check-ins: Bulletin board, Schedule adjustments, Trainings/staff development day, New book clubs, Social media access/training, Department budgets, Programming & program planning, Misc. collection projects, Fundraising & business sponsorships, Additional volunteer support for Gallery

8. **Unfinished Business:** none

9. **New Business:** none

10. **Public Comment:** none.

11. **Adjournment:** A reminder that April 16th will be the public hearing on the Town Budget Warrant and Town Meeting will be at Mt. Ararat High School on May 13th. All are encouraged to attend. Heather moved to adjourn the regular business meeting seconded by Pamela. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Swiderski, Board Secretary