

Hall Memorial Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
7:00 p.m.
93 Main Street and ZOOM

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ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Peg Busse. In attendance: Peg Busse, John Halloran, Christina Keune, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Library Director Susan Phillips, Recording Secretary/Bookkeeper Rhonda Villanova; via ZOOM: Mary Blanchette, Anna Michalak, and Reference Librarian Amanda Duhamel
- II. Citizen's Forum
No citizens present
- III. Chairman's Report
- IV. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2026
Motion (), Seconded (), to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2026; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- V. Income Report
Report was reviewed.
- VI. Current Year Budget Report
The report was reviewed with a few line items discussed. Peg Busse noted the full/part time lines are balancing as expected.
- VII. Library Director Report
Susan Phillips noted the highlights of the report. "Nile" the whale is still being raved about. The library is trying a new program called "Hushed at Hall", a group silent reading program for book readers to gather on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. At the end of the reading time, people can discuss their books or have a snack. Hall Memorial is offering some digital programs courtesy of Road Scholar. Two of the programs will be offered as hybrid (in-house and virtually). Peg Busse asked whether the library was ready technologically for the in-house part of the hybrid programs. Susan pointed out that there have been updates to the library technology and the programs are mainly lectures which do not require an interactive component.

Online donations were discussed. A determination is needed on how to handle if the donation is misdirected to the Friends.
- VIII. Friends of the Library Report
Peg Busse reported the final accounting of Mini-Golf. After expenses and payment to the Mini-Golf vendor, the event made \$7,557.00. It was brought to the board's attention that no one has volunteered to run the event next year. The Book Cellar has re-opened to "crowds" of people. The donation box for the renovation was taken down. While the cost was higher than anticipated, the Friends are thinking about phase 2. Peg offered accolades to Ellen Bonano, the Book Cellar Manager, for getting the shelves stocked and ready for re-opening.

IX. New Business

a. Review updates to Circulation Policy

Susan Phillips reviewed the policy, noting that the changes were mostly in wording and organization. Peg Busse asked for clarification of the interlibrary borrowing options. Phillips shared that books are obtained from other consortium libraries using the Evergreen system, and from non-consortium libraries through the State Library collaborative catalog.

Moved (Keune), Seconded (Halloran), to accept the updates to the circulation policy, all in favor; motion passed unanimously.

X. Old Business

a. Update on library involvement with America 250 celebration project

Susan Phillips presented a list of currently scheduled programs in celebration of America 250. The goal is to have one program per month for the year. Some are in person and some are hybrid. Some are collaborations with other organizations, i.e. Ellington Historical Society. The planning started early enough to be incorporated into the regular programming schedule. Peg Busse asked whether the costs are within the budget; Susan Phillips responded they are. The October 3rd town-wide event for America 250 will be sponsored by funds raised specifically for the event. The library will have crafts, antique games and toys available. There may be additional activities included as the time gets closer.

b. 2026-2027 Budget Update

Peg Busse shared with the board that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen looked at the library budget. Neither board commented. However, the town budget as a whole may cause changes to be made.

c. Update on Eclipse Program

The library continues to offer placement for students from the EHS Eclipse Program. A contract has been signed which will end at the end of the current school year. It will then be determined whether the amount of pre-planning, execution, and necessary follow-up of the program continues to be feasible.

XI. Trustee Concerns

John Halloran will not be present at the next meeting.

XII. Adjournment

Moved (Keune), Seconded (Walmbolt-Gulick), to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.; all in favor; motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by: Rhonda Villanova
Recording Secretary

