

Groton Free Public Library, Groton, VT
Library Trustee Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026

The duly warned meeting of the Library Trustees was held at the Groton Free Public Library on May 14, 2026.

Trustees in attendance were Jennie Gaiss, Chair; Deborah Jurist, Treasurer; Dawn Evans, Secretary; Tonya Stetson; and Wayne Knott. Also in attendance was Sarah Spira, Library Director.

Jennie Gaiss called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Annual Appeal item was removed, having been included inadvertently in the posted agenda.

April 2, 2026, Minutes:

Deborah Jurist made a motion to approve the draft minutes of the April 2, 2026, meeting of the Trustees. Wayne Knott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Deborah reported that under the expenditures in the 400 account it lists a transfer out of \$17,000, which reflects the movement of the funds closing the money market account and one of the large donations that we received to open a new CD. She will work with the town to clarify how to reflect this. Otherwise, the numbers look good.

We have talked about developing a strategic plan driven by the finances of the library. Deborah has not yet tackled it because it feels like too much for her to do alone. She would like some help. We recognize it should be a group project and time should be devoted to it. We recognize that, being in the midst of the renovations to the building, the amount of time that can be devoted to it by the Library Director is extremely limited. Once that project is completed, there will be more time available.

Library Director's Report including Capital Improvements Grant update:

Sarah had planned to purchase a new refrigerator this year. The trustees discussed adding to the warranty to get it to 5 years. It will be ordered for delivery from Home Depot.

Sarah has discussed the built-in shelves with Patrick Shadduck. They are a historic feature and cannot be removed. Sarah wants to add a door to cover the shelves so that she can use the area for storage. She has discussed with Steve Bacheldor and Tonya how to configure it.

We received a free sunscreen dispenser from the Vermont Community Sunscreen Dispenser Program sponsored by VTAAC, Dartmouth Cancer Center, UVM Cancer Center and IMPACT Melanoma.

A meeting was held with Rural Edge and Kingdom Construction this morning. Chris with Kingdom Construction provided details about the schedule of work to be performed beginning later this month. Chris provided a photo of the proposed fencing, which is vinyl. Jennie wants some assurance that it will have structural integrity and withstand weather without falling over.

Chris wants to have further conversation with Bob about the location of the generator and the two 250-gallon propane tanks that will be needed to run it.

Sarah discussed moving the workstation that was going to be in front of the space where the front door will be walled off to the corner next to the elevette. Providing power at that location will not be a problem.

Only one planned activity – a tai chi class – will be displaced by work in the loft area. In good weather, they will meet outdoors. Sarah will make alternate arrangements for incimate weather.

Sarah will be scheduling a meeting with the Department of Libraries in order to provide an update about the construction project.

NEKCV has broached having the grand opening of the Hub space on the same date as the Day in the Village. The trustees discussed the pros and cons of having the events occurring at the same time and the idea of presenting Allison with our schedule to let them consider whether their planned event could be coordinated around it.

Sarah has gotten material about what it will cost if we switch to NEKCV for internet service from Spectrum. She will be getting pricing from Spectrum upgrading to fiber internet service. NEKCV is offering the first two years of internet service for free. Sarah is looking at pricing that would begin at the end of that period to compare to Spectrum. The trustees discussed the benefit of getting the two free years and the possibility of getting the wiring for the NEKCV system while the work is being done to install the HVAC system.

Symquest has donated a component to use the printer as a facsimile machine.

Library Visitors 2026			
	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Young Adult (13-19)</i>	<i>Children (0-13)</i>
Jan.	182	41	69
Feb.	178	48	67
Mar.	165	53	70
April	273	82	113
May.			
Jun.			

Jul.			
Aug.			
Sept.			
Oct.			
Nov.			
Dec.			
Yearly Total	798	224	319

Monthly Totals			
	2024	2025	2026
Jan.	251	304	292
Feb.	267	255	293
Mar.	288	281	288
April	227	275	468
May.	239	325	
Jun.	219	456	
Jul.	307	434	
Aug.	379	326	
Sept.	285	347	
Oct.	630	716	
Nov.	292	258	
Dec.	479	365	
Yearly Total	3863	4342	1341

Policy Review Committee update:

Jennie says we are working on the library funds policy. Our existing policy is not very comprehensive. As Donna is no longer a board member, Deborah is now being included in the Committee's work. Once the feedback that Deborah has provided has been reviewed and digested by Jennie and Donna, a meeting of the committee will be scheduled in July.

Friends Report:

Sarah thanks the Friends for donating a Fairbanks Museum pass.

Public Comments:

No members of the public were present.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting is Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The July meeting will take place on July 16.

Deborah made a motion to adjourn. Wayne seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.