

**Library Board Meeting
December 8, 2025**

Unapproved Minutes

Board: Carrie Becker (Chair) Gina Parker (Secretary & Treasurer), Robin Wilson, Bonny Baldwin

Librarian: Jaci Lussier

Call to Order: Carrie called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Approve Minutes:

- Minutes from November 3, 2025 read aloud by Gina. Motion to accept minutes as written by Carrie, Seconded by Robin.
- Minutes from November 19, 2025 Special Meeting read aloud by Gina. Motion to accept minutes as written by Carrie, Seconded by Robin.

Public Comment:

- None

Librarian's Report:

- Jaci reported about the very generous Donation of \$500 in memory of Benji from Daniel Beavin. Carrie will send a thank you note.
- The library will be closed on Wednesday December 24th and Wednesday December 31st for the Holidays.
- The back room needs to be cleaned out. Gina volunteered to help with that project.
- Kate from Orwell Library reached out about a Tech Grant which is aimed at helping people that struggle with the use of technology.
 - Motion by Robin to attach the Benson Public Library to the Orwell Library for this Tech Grant. Seconded by Bonny.
- Chia's last day will be the 18th as she will be away for a month. A question was asked about if the books were all done. Jaci reported that they are not as a lot of the non-fiction books do not have ISBN numbers and therefore take longer to enter. We will discuss the potential of having Chia complete this work at our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Summary:

Balance: \$ 6,092.85

Savings: \$ 4,479.31

Capital Improvement Grant Balance: \$20,651.39

- Budget: Gina presented a budget. Questions were asked about how the numbers were developed and everyone agreed they seemed reasonable. Carrie questioned if the Grant money should be there. It was Gina's opinion that this report is about what we are requesting and that should be on the report created by the town treasurer. Gina mentioned adding an event line rather than having it with Equipment and Supplies, The board agreed this would be a good choice.

- Motion by Robin to accept the Budget of \$12,000 with reducing the Equipment and supplies line to \$500 and Events to \$1500. Seconded by Bonny
- Carrie stated that even though she will no longer be on the board that she would be willing to do a grant report for us next year.

Old Business:

- Merp Grant: Discussion on the pros and cons of fulfilling the request from Heidi and Daryl. Gina stated that she feels there is a benefit to not having to run the project ourselves and that it will accomplish the goals we already had. Carrie stated an agreement with Gina and that she suggests \$13,000 rather than the \$15,000 that was requested. This way there will be money left for us to complete some of the other projects we want to do such as the radiators.
 - Motion made by Carrie to allocate \$13,000 of our Improvement Grant to leverage the MERP Grant with the priority being ADA access to the Library. A quote for expected expenses on the project should be shared with the board, Receipts shall be approved by the Library Board Treasurer prior to funds being moved. In the event that the project does not get completed, funds remain with the Library. A final report of costs for the project will be received from the overseers of the MERP Grant for grant reporting purposes.
Seconded by Robin. 3 yes, 1 no
- Neighbor to Neighbor: Date is set for February 4th. Bonny will contact people for a presentation on emergency preparedness.
- Book Group: Carrie spoke with Kate recently and Kate made it clear that she does not want any money from Benson for getting the books for the book group.
- Library Bylaws: Tabled
- Seed Project: They would like to do some kind of a presentation on this to really launch the project. They were planning on February but the board is thinking that March may be better.
- January Event: The Mercy Ecospirituality Center is going to host this event. They will be charging admission and it will be limited to 40 attendees.
 - Motion made by Carrie to give Mercy \$150 from our savings account for the event.
Seconded by Bonny.

New Business:

- Application: Discussion on hold and application will be held for now. Jaci is not intending to step down until the end of June.
- Library Key: Gina asked Carrie for her Library key. She handed over the key to the Library and the Community Hall. Carrie mentioned that someone may want to contact Jean Valois to let him know that he now needs to contact Gina for Entry. Gina will let him know.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2026 at 10:00 am.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 11:28 am by Carrie. Second by Gina.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gina Parker