Minutes
Norman Williams Public Library Board
Annual Board Meeting
May 26, 2026 5:00 p.m.

Attending:

- Tom List, Denny Wetherald, Emma Schmell, Bianca Zlatea attended in person.
- Priscilla Painton, Emily Lev and Marisa Traniello attended via Zoom.
- Elisa D'Andrea, Mary Margaret Sloan, Jack MacGuire and Juan Carlos Gonzalez were absent.
- Clare McFarland and Robert Sollinger were present by invitation.
- Submitted by Emma Schmell, Secretary.

Call to order at 5:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks & Announcements Tom List, Chair
Tom reported a change to the agenda to begin the meeting with the vote for the board member candidate, Robert Sollinger. Tom welcomed Robert who introduced himself and answered questions from the board. Robert left the meeting prior to the vote.

Tom called for a motion to approve Robert's candidacy to the board. The motion was so moved by Denny and seconded by Emma. All were in favor of inviting Robert to the board and the motion passed with none opposed. Robert rejoined the meeting.

Tom reminded the board that it was the last meeting for Elisa and Mary Margaret.
Tom expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the board for the commitment and time each has given to the library and the board. Their contributions have been invaluable and we thank them. Elisa will continue to volunteer for special events and help with the lobby book sales. Thank you to The Mad Pantry for the cupcakes.

Library Director's Report by Clare McFarland
In Full Bloom was a great success with revenue more than double that of the Wassail event. The two events together bring us closer to matching the revenue previously generated by the Gala event. We are encouraged by the efforts and momentum. People loved the raffle and Clare suggested better raffle prizes next year to sell more tickets, but still mindful of ticket price. Marisa shared positive feedback from her peers.

- Everyone enjoyed the event, loved the raffle and the affordability of the tickets.
- Everyone recognized the importance of supporting, showing up and contributing financially to the library for ongoing success in the community.
- Efforts and changes made in the library such as in the children's area are appreciated.
- Community members are eager to help spread the word about future events.

Suggestions discussed:

- How do we publicize more? Clare said we could send an Evite link to those who came to past events.
- Should we hold the raffle at one event per year making it more special or at two yearly events to continue momentum?
- Have a signature prize.
- Use deeper network and connections to coordinate better food and other donations.
- Give 2 tickets for the event to those who donate a raffle prize, food or other.
- Invest in high top tables to make managing food and drink more comfortable for guests.
- Community business sponsors to underwrite some of the event.

The book sale was not as successful primarily because our inventory was limited this year.

Clare confirmed whether everyone had received the Strategic Plan and asked if there were questions. Tom suggested we delay the vote until the June meeting so that everyone could review it fully. We agreed to revisit in June.
There were no further questions for Clare.

Tom asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the April meeting. There were none.

Tom called for a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was so moved by Priscilla and seconded by Denny. The minutes from the April board meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report by Denny Wetherald
Denny will send the May financial report in mid-June when he returns from vacation. Work on the budget for 2026-2027 is finished; the budget for the upcoming year is ~10% higher. This reflects all increased costs anticipated. A very solid Fall Appeal campaign and staying tight with the current budget has left a small surplus. A strong response from the Spring Appeal campaign is important. We will discuss and vote on the budget at the June meeting. Denny will send the budget early to the board to give time to review.

Tom asked if there were any questions for Denny. There were none. Tom called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in a non-written form. The motion was so moved by Emily and seconded by Marisa. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Other Business
Clare reported an article will appear in The Vermont Standard highlighting the interesting things happening at the library as well as changes going on, summer reading program and the raised bed garden. Two articles related to the library are published every week in The Vermont Standard.
Emily shared that the Vermont Historical Society has partnered with the Department of Libraries for a children's program to bring Vermont history to libraries around the state this summer. It is a free program and the Vermont Historical Society staff educators will be working with children. Clare shared that the library is partnering with the National Park Service to do summer programs at the library.

Tom called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was so moved by Denny, seconded by Emma and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting
The next meeting will be Monday, June 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
There will be no meeting in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Emma Schmell, Secretary
June 19, 2026