

Stamford Library Association Board Meeting Minutes Monday, March 23, 2026

At Stamford Library: *Present:* Trustees Barbara Balliet, Katy Barber-Graves, Millie Faulkner, Susan Harwood, Janet Kirch, Pat Heath, Linda Stratigos, Ellen Thorn; Library Director Erika Eklund; *Absent:* Katy Clayton, John Hubbard, Julie Rockefeller, Stephanie Rubin-Ruquet, Mike Teitelbaum

Call to order: Barbara called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes: The March 2, 2026, Regular board meeting minutes were approved by trustees who attended that meeting (motion by Linda; second by Pat).

Financial reports: Financial reports from Erika and from Millie were distributed in advance of the meeting.

The **P&L statement** through February 2026, lists an income of \$10,892.51 against an annual budget of \$198,065.00; and an expense of \$28,283.16 against an annual expense budget of \$200,529.00.

The **Balance Sheet** as of February 28, 2026, lists total assets at \$4,305,590.39. Millie confirmed that the assets and balance sheet match.

Wayne Bank Business Checking account #2720 statement on February 27, 2026, had a balance of \$4,513.93.

Wayne Bank Investor account #3242 statement on February 27, 2026, had a balance of \$85,938.10, which includes year-to-date interest for 2026 of \$52.11.

Wayne Bank Business checking (construction) account #8612 statement on February 27, 2026, had a balance of \$86,848.90.

NBT Wealth Management investment summary through February 2026 lists a market value of \$3,224,047.66. The portfolio percentages include cash equivalents of 10.39%, fixed income of 33.94%, and stocks/ real assets of 55.67%. The estimated annual income is \$82,023.58.

Millie reviewed bank statements, check sequence, deposits, invoices, and interest income through February 2026, and she reported on interest and fees. Investor account interest amounted to \$52.11 and NBT Wealth Management interest was \$29,113.28, for a total of \$29,165.39; and NBT fees reached \$3,331.81.

The financial report was approved (motion by Ellen; second by Linda).

Library director's report

Erika provided electronic copies to the board in advance of the meeting. In addition to the standard ongoing tasks related to payroll, invoices, spreadsheet recordkeeping, filing, weeding, maintaining an up-to-date website, and 4CLS involvement, the following items were reported.

Operations

The Annual Report portal currently remains locked, but work has begun to complete circulation and usage tabulation (also to be used for the Robinson Broadhurst Spring Report). Highlights include total item circulation of 12,899 (an increase of 587 items from 2024). We also saw an increase in library cardholders, from 1,431 to 1,468. Additional statistics include 12,538 library visits, 960 public computer sessions, 1,095 Wi-Fi connections, and a total of 23,438 copies, scans, and faxes. On the programming side, we held 104 programs for children and teens (1,272 participants), 100 programs for adults (1,360 participants), and 23 all-ages programs (809 attendees). In total, we welcomed 3,450 community members to our programs throughout the year. Deadline for report submission is April 16.

We have obtained a grant from Stewart's for \$1,000.

Jefferson gave SLA \$300.

We have not yet received a new lease for use of the Churchill Building, but the board agreed to accept the renewal if it comes in within the 3% cap and no other changes are added (motion by Janet; second by Katy B).

Erika drafted a new Mission Statement and proposed Vision and Values Statements for board discussion, review, and adoption (motion by Janet; second by Linda). She also prepared case statements focused on Community Service, Rural Impact, and Legacy, and a new library tagline: "Together — We Write the Next Chapter."

Erika received several bids for rebuilding and rebranding our website. After eliminating the most expensive bid and reviewing the other proposals, the board agreed to have Erika make the final decision for hiring the new webmaster she will be working with (motion by Barbara; second by Janet); Erika wants trustees' feedback by Wednesday.

Pat has prepared a job description for a campaign development/donor management position, which the board liked. We will advertise on the website, Facebook, and *The Mountain Eagle* until the April 24 deadline. Erika will create a G-mail account for resumes and cover letters. Pat will weed responses and do initial interviews. We'll post the job at \$20 per hour and at 15–20 hours per week to begin (job description approved by Susan; second by Pat).

Christina Ricardelli has prepared several landscape design examples and is very enthusiastic about volunteering for committee work for the new library.

A proposed change to the Eileen Buchar will was sent for legal review and was approved for signing by the library board approval (motion by Linda; second by Susan).

We've been informed that Elizabeth Pitt at Evening Star Bookkeeping Services will take over our account from Mary Frost, who is leaving. Pitt has already been managing payroll work for the library.

Erika spoke with Tom and Diane Beers to thank them for their thoughtfulness and generosity in including SLA in their estate planning. They may appreciate some form of acknowledgment; the board suggested a leaf be created for the wall

plaque — not a thermometer — to provide a public and tangible living legacy.

Erika has been working on a grant application due the O'Connor Foundation by April 1. Barbara, Linda, and Erika decided to request half of the estimated \$196,800 cost of the new children's activity room, for a total of \$98,400.

Erika had the library's carpets cleaned.

Programs and Outreach

Through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), we are planning to bring its PowerHouse to the village in September. The PowerHouse is powered entirely by solar energy and features examples of energy-saving measures that residents can incorporate into their own homes. In addition to touring the PowerHouse, the visit would include programs on understanding your utility bill, steps to save energy and money, and hands-on science activities for PreK–12 students.

Drew Azzinaro was awarded a \$4,480 Delaware County Arts Grant, for which SLA served as fiscal sponsor, to support an expanded "Guitar in the Mountains" series at the library this spring and fall. The grant will fund two eight-week series — beginner and intermediate — this spring and two additional eight-week series in the fall.

We have renewed the Empire pass for use by library patrons.

Upcoming programs include: Diabetes Prevention with Bassett (March 27, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.); Paws and Pages reading time (April 8, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.); a stoneware glazing workshop (April 10); a children's book reading with the authors of *The Power of Three* (April 18, 11:30 a.m.); a presentation on New York State Fire Towers (April 21); the "Seed to Supper" gardening series with CCE (April 28–May 19); sponsoring the Earth Day 5K Trail Tale (April 25); the SafeSitter Babysitting Course with CCE (May 2); the Plant Swap and Tea Party (May 16); and the Writers Circle Open Reading (June 5).

Old business

Work is being done to finalize Paul Mays' contract.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. (motion by Pat; second by Janet).

Upcoming meeting

Monday, April 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.: Regular board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Thorn, Secretary