

Farmington Libraries since 1901

Library Board Minutes

12 November 2025

Attendees: Linda Chapron, Trish Pino Garcia, Brian Lindroth, Janell Lovig, Rich Olivastro, Gary Ontko, Vanitha Patil, Dana Pescatello, Alan Sherman, Elisabeth Umpleby, Jocelyn Kennedy,
Guests: Curt Goswick (FVGLA), Eric Ort (potential Board member)

Members not present: Celia Bouza, Ida Franklin, Lyman Louis

Quorum: A quorum was determined. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present, and consequently, no public comments were made.

Introduction of Library Board members for the benefit of potential Board member Eric Ort.

Votes to Elect New Board Members:

The board held a vote to elect Eric Ort as new board member. Rich moved; Brian seconded. With all in favor, Eric was elected to the Board.

Approval of the October meeting minutes: Linda moved, and Gary seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with 3 corrections.

Board Chair Report:

- Dana welcomed Eric Ort as the newest board member, which increases the scope of the board.
- Reminder about the December meeting – there will only be an Executive Committee meeting, not a full Board meeting. January is a regular full Board meeting on Zoom, and February will be a regular full Board meeting. Dates are in the June minutes as well as on the annual calendar passed out at the September meeting.
- Appreciation for the strong showing at the FVGLA meeting on October 16th.
- The FVGLA Holiday Gala is on December 5th.
- Bylaws have been submitted to the FVGLA for approval.
- The library's policies were accepted by the State Library.

Executive Director Report:

- Jocelyn led the costume parade at the town-wide Fall festival.
- Staff participated in the Winding Trails Music Festival and talked to about 150 people. Staff also attended the Community Care Fair at the Senior Center and a pop-up library was held at the Senior Center.
- On November 20th at the Canton Library, Wes Horton will be the first speaker in the "To Form a More Perfect Union" series. January's program is on environmental law at the Simsbury Public Library. Avon Public Library is holding the third program in February on

civil rights and housing law. Farmington Library will be hosting the final program in the series in April.

- On November 22, the Farmington Artist Circle is having an art show reception at the library from 2:30-4:30pm.
- The library's events page has all upcoming events.
- List of planned holiday closures was provided to the Board.
- Discussion of Administrative Officer Manager duties and how Human Resource questions are handled in the library.
- Discussion of how holiday pay and schedules work in the library.
- Staff Gratitude Day is the Monday before the Thanksgiving holiday where snacks and thank you cards are provided so that staff can write appreciation notes to each other. They are delivered to staff's mailbins over the holiday weekend so they can have them when they return. Jocelyn provided notes for the Board to write a note of our appreciation to each department that she will deliver on our behalf.
- Jocelyn provided a presentation on long-range trends for the library. Statistics are reported to the State Library which are then submitted to IMLS. The library receives \$1,400 from the state for submitting those statistics. Overall, the library is above average compared to other libraries that are similar sized.
- Jocelyn also provided a FY25-26 Q1 expenditure report with accompanying discussion on audits and object codes that the library can use when reporting expenditures. Brian will work with Jocelyn on the data and will report to the Board as well as keeping Curt/FVGLA apprised.

Committee Reports:

- No report regarding the Farmington Room
- Infrastructure – Looking at the first 5-6 years of the SP&A report and drafting a capital spending plan.
- Friends – The Book Nook continues to make about \$1,000/month. Holiday books will be coming out soon in a pop-up sale. Vintage Christmas ornaments and puzzles will also be available for sale. The staff at the Circulation Desk accepting payment makes it all possible. Restoration work is nearly complete in the garden – the grading of the property, new ADA compliant paths. More fencing and irrigation is needed. There will be new plantings in the spring; the town provided funds to replant where things were dug out. The Friends have begun partnerships with Mercy Housing, Hartford High, Weaver High School to provide books for their populations. They also contribute books to Unionville Museum's holiday festival raffle baskets.

Other Business:

- The Unionville Museum exhibit for December is a traveling exhibit of the original Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer book.
- Jocelyn will bring children's books from the Friends to the town holiday breakfast on December 13.
- Jocelyn is considering putting the library on the list to be a drop-off point for the Farmington Food Pantry to meet a community need of not being able to get to the

pantry when they are open. The Board supports the idea and Jocelyn will begin those conversations.

- The project to collect recipes from the community and publish a digital community recipe book will kick off in January. Marketing will be through local churches, community organizations, library patrons, the website, and the Patch. Surrounding towns will also help market.

Motion to approve serving alcohol at the Farmington Artist Circle Wonderland exhibit reception on Saturday, November 22 from 2:30-4:30p. Linda moved, Gary seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Next Board Meeting: January 21, 2026 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89092912032?pwd=VjHjLagPnZybtY440mJ8U3nwLxKJKv.1>)