

Plainfield Libraries Board of Trustees
Minutes of May 18, 2026 Meeting at Meriden Library (ML)

Present:

Trustees: Mike Adams (MA), Rosemary Mills (RM), Devan Tracy (DT),
Sally Rub (SR), Michelle Feller-Kopman (MFK)

Library Director: Jim Allen (JA)

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by MA. MA: all Trustees present [roll call].
No adjustments to meeting agenda.

No public comment.

Minutes from the April 20, 2026 Library Trustees meeting were unanimously approved.

JA relayed that the following correspondence was received: A \$5,000 check from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation to be used toward proposed health and well-being programs, a check for \$15,000 from the Association for Rural and Small Libraries for a Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant.

No reports from FOPRML and FOML.

Director's Annual Review: MA said that the HR Committee met and SR commended JA on his performance over the past year. The HR Committee recommended to the Trustees that JA receive a 3% salary increase effective June 1, 2026. MA made a motion to approve this increase, MFK seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. DT will contact Steve Halleran to notify the Town of the increase.

Director's Report: JA reported that PL received a private donation from Plainfield resident, Peter Martin, for a digital radon detector, which will be available for loan to library cardholders. The State of NH Health and Human Services donated a second radon detector so that each library will have one for lending. A library patron requested that a Spanish conversation group be

started at PL and JA has agreed to survey interest and likely implement the program. JA is finalizing plans for the summer reading program, a Good Humor truck is planned for August as well as a Touch a Truck program in Plainfield Village for kids and William Dougherty had an artist's reception and exhibit at PRML. JA offered a seed program for kids, and Friends of the Cornish Library have sponsored webinar programs (all held at ML on Saturday afternoons) for themselves, Friends of the Claremont Library, FOML, and FOPRML about how to run effective Friends of Library programs. There was a Redcoats and Rebels program at ML, sponsored by the Plainfield Historical Society and a film screening of *Once You Know* at PRML (with pizza and drinks sponsored by FOPRML). Community meetings held at the PL included the Library Trustees, the Friends of PL groups, and the Plainfield Democratic Committee.

Treasurer's Report: DT reported Plainfield Libraries (PL) budget on track at 35% spent and 37% through the year. DT did an analysis and projects that the high electricity bills from this past, unusually cold winter may cause the PL budget to be overrun by \$3000 later in the year. It is hoped that the new solar installation will help offset the higher costs from earlier this year. DT also spoke with Eversource about doing an energy audit at PRML but was told that they had already conducted these in 2011 and 2018. Brad Atwater told DT that the Town had implemented all recommendations resulting from the two energy audits. DT shared those reports from 2011 and 2018 with the Trustees.

DT related that BA had advised her to issue one check to pay the solar installation cost at the conclusion of the installation. This will be paid for with the \$15,000 grant from Sustainable and Renewable New England Libraries Grant, the \$10,000 contribution from the Meriden Library Foundation and the remainder from the ML Building Fund. PL will submit the required documentation before July 1 in order to receive a federal rebate (amount as yet unknown) toward the solar installation cost. SR objected to the \$15,000 grant being used for the ML solar installation instead of the installation being funded from the ML Building Fund, which was her understanding prior to PL receiving the grant from the Association. JA noted that the \$15K grant must be spent within one year specifically for solar installation and that he is required

to submit a final report to the Association summarizing how the grant was utilized by PL.

SR asked who is following up in the recommendation to install a railing near the storage shed behind PRML. JA replied that Brad Atwater had said that the town would install it this summer and that PL would only need to pay for the necessary materials. SR asked when and JA replied that BA had not yet specified a date.

Non-public session not needed.

Adjournment at 6:32pm by MA.

Next PL BoT Meeting: Monday June 15 at 6pm at PRML.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Feller-Kopman