



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Library Commission

Meeting Minutes

Bill Library
718 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Gales Ferry Library
18 Hurlbutt Road
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06335

Chair
John Bolduc

Special Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2026

7:30 PM

Bill Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Bolduc called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Ledyard Bill Library.

II. ROLL CALL

In addition, the following were present:

Adrienne Parad - Town Council Liaison

Olivia Pearce - Friends of Ledyard Library President

Present Chairman John Bolduc
 Treasurer Ralph Hightower
 Vice Chair Rolf Racich
 Recording Secretary Ellin Grenger
 Commissioner Peter Diette
 Commissioner Wendy Hellekson
 Commissioner Gillian Thorne
 Commissioner Cynthia Wright
Excused Commissioner Elizabeth Rumery

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

None.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Presentation of the FY25 Annual Report

Thank you to Stacey, Matt, and Lyndsey for preparing the report. Library Director Jessica will update the Library Commission tab on the website to show the current report.

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

VI. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

Ralph is working with the Finance Department to clarify the line items, related to how the Operating Expenses are reported.

2. Director's Report**Budget:**

- The proposed budget for FY27 will be presented during the Special Meeting on January 12. I was able to meet with numerous parties to get a better understanding of our predicted increases.

Director Onboarding:

- I have completed my onboarding tasks, including training for Munis, scheduling, library operations, and more. I also held introductory meetings with our vendors and contractors to have a better understanding of the library's relationship with them, deadlines for any paperwork, and current billing cycles.
- I am planning to have individual meetings over the next month with staff to better understand each employee's regular duties and responsibilities. I am also continuing the existing pattern of leadership meetings.

Library News:

- Included in this report is a new monthly statistics report. This document is flexible and can be modified if we decide we need more specific data or find that something is missing.
- The holidays caused a delay in deliveries of new items from Ingram. Ingram is the primary book supplier for many libraries, as well as Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Despite their assurances that they could handle the increase in demand, we still have two months of orders waiting for delivery. Books are starting to trickle in, with an October order of adult items now saying shipped and an order of youth items having arrived. Hopefully delivery picks up now that the holidays are over.
- Both buildings have weeding projects underway. Matt is currently working on a weeding project for the Adult Non-Fiction at Bill Library. He is a little over half way. When it is completed, he is hoping to make changes to the library's floor plan. The goal is to swap the locations of the Fiction and Nonfiction collections, allowing fiction to expand and bringing it closer to the entrance. Demand for Fiction is growing, as is its circulation and publication. Making it more accessible and giving it room to grow is essential for its continued success. Lyndsey is weeding the Fiction collection at Gales Ferry and making some minor changes, including shelf shifting and giving James Patterson his own shelf.
- Our Yoto collection is moving forward to its next phase: beta testing the cards and boxes with 4 or 5 families. This will allow us to troubleshoot any problems and create accurate training materials. Our goal is to have staff training in February and debut the collection to the community by March 2026.
- Adult programming had some very successful events, including an Introduction to Calligraphy and a Historical Baking Contest. Self-directed activities for youth and storytimes are still going strong, and the Cookie Decorating at Bill was particularly popular! Coming up on January 12, The Jewish Federation has partnered with us to bring Vivian Zoë, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, to speak on her family's experience abroad during the Second World War. On January 17, members from the Eastern Connecticut Woodturners will be at the Ledyard Bill Library to help participants create their own wooden pens. We also have an introduction to digital literacy, miniature book binding, and more coming up.

Check out our calendar for more details on each program and to register.

- I renewed the membership for the Association of CT Library Boards and updated the commission membership roster in our profile.

Building News:

- Shawn from Public Works has been keeping a close eye on our HVAC and heating. Recently, the heating line at Bill Library became disconnected, leading to excess heat in the basement and colder temperatures in the meeting room. Fortunately, Kim had noticed a pattern of strange temperatures and Matt found the cause when closing the building. Shawn was able to repair it, but doesn't believe it to be the sole problem as we are still experiencing low temperatures in the Meeting Room. Shawns team has been investigating and identified a couple of areas for a contractor to review. We are incredibly thankful for their expertise and dedication to our building!

Town News:

- FOIA Training is being offered by the Town for staff, commission members, and volunteers on Tuesday, February 10, at 3:30 PM for Staff and 6 PM for Volunteers in the Council Chambers. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Training/Presentation will be provided by the Director of Education & Communications, Russell Blair, from the State of Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission. I will be attending on behalf of the Library and encourage any Commission members who are interested to attend as well.

Jessica Franco, Library Director
jfranco@ledyardlibrary.org

3. Investment Working Group

Group is meeting 1/13/26

4. Friends of the Ledyard Library

Olivia is newly installed president, FOLL is working hard to recruit new members and has seen some increased interest in the group. Also working on new fundraisers. Snowflake Festival raised approximately \$4,500.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Motion to approve the Library Commission Special Meeting Minutes December 29, 2025.**

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Cynthia Wright

SECONDER: Ralph Hightower

AYE 6 Bolduc Hightower Racich Hellekson Thorne Wright

EXCUSED 1 Rumery

ABSTAIN 2 Grenger Diette

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Any Old Business proper to come before the Committee

XI. NEW BUSINESS**1.** Discuss, revise, and approve the Library's FY27 budget proposal to the Town of Ledyard.

1. Library Director Jessica presented the proposed budget. It includes a new step rate for Library Associates, based on upcoming required minimum wage increase. Outside of staff, a modest overall increase was proposed to reflect the increased cost of books (physical and digital).

2. MOTION to approve the Library Director's budget as proposed.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Ralph Hightower

SECONDER: Peter Diette

AYE 8 Bolduc Hightower Racich Grenger Diette Hellekson Thorne Wright

EXCUSED 1 Rumery

Any New Business proper to come before the Committee

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thorne moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Ms. Grenger.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

VOTE: 8-0 Approved and so declared

Respectively Submitted,

Chairman John Bolduc
Library Commission

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.