



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, February 9, 2026

7:00 PM

Bill Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Bolduc called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at the Ledyard Bill Library.

II. ROLL CALL

In addition, the following were present:
Jessica Franco - Library Director

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

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

None.

IV. MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

V. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

None, Treasurer excused.

2. Director's Report

Discussing January 2026, Presented February 2026

Budget:

- The proposed budget for FY27 was presented to the Mayor on January 28th. Our Budget Work Session with Town Council will be Thursday, March 13 at 3 PM. My due date is March 20, which could impact this presentation. I am working with Erica to ensure that she has a full understanding of our budget proposal, should I be unable to attend.

Director Onboarding:

- I have met with half the staff for individual meetings discussing their regular responsibilities, professional goals, and my current and long-term plans (below).
 - Current plans: my focus is stability and consistency. I want to make sure I lay the groundwork for a smooth maternity leave, while also addressing inconsistencies in some of our practices.
 - Long-term: After I return from maternity leave, I want to address larger projects and goals. This would include any ideas the staff have, as well as developing the process for a new strategic plan.
- Leadership meetings continue on a bi-weekly basis, covering topics ranging from policies to budget planning.

Library News:

- The monthly statistic report has been adapted to include e-lending services. There was no way to keep it to one page, so there have been some formatting changes.
- Deliveries are back in full force! Erica has been doing a great job catching up and getting items on the shelves in a timely manner. At one point, she had 10 boxes of books surrounding her desk! Staff is taking note of this pattern for next year so we can adjust our ordering practices for the holiday slow down.
- As I am getting to know our services and practices, I have found some areas that need to be addressed or formalized. This includes our circulation/loan rules, animals in the building, volunteering, and photo permissions. I am working with HR and Parks & Rec to see what the Town expectations are for these practices, as well as digging into past records from the Library to confirm current practices. I will be presenting all new/updated policies to the Commission as they are developed.
- We are in the process of developing a Marketing Team that will ensure consistency across all marketing efforts. This team will be comprised of smaller groups that focus on specific marketing platforms. Our first focus is social media. Raven,

Lyndsey, and I have developed a new planning tool that we are implementing in February. Our goals are more consist posting, varying topics for each post, and increased engagement by our followers. We encourage all of our Commission members to follow us if you are on social media and let us know what you think of the upcoming changes.

- Both weeding projects are still underway. We have a tentative timeline to finish them by the end of the fiscal year.
- It is hard to think about gardening after we got 15 inches of snow, but plans for this season's Seed Library are underway! To coordinate such a complex service, we have formed a small team that will be driving force of it: Matt will be our Seed Coordinator, Lyndsey our Volunteer Coordinator, and Laura our Mentor, as well as Marketing Coordinator. Each is tackling their respective roles as we work toward a spring debut.
- From the Children's Department: Registration for the "Whale, Would You Look At That?!" program will be opening on February 17. This is a special program that we are able to provide for the community through the Janet Barnett Grant. A life size inflatable whale named Delilah is coming from Plymouth Mass and families will be able to go inside the whale to learn all about whales. Mystic Seaport will also be coming that day to offer special whale learning activities and information. In addition, we're giving out bags with crafts and activities, there will be a whale listening station, and we're raffling off a 43-inch stuffed whale big plush pillow. We're hoping for a full house and lots of fun! The program is on Saturday, March 21 and people who want to register must call either library to be put on the list.
- Our staff are actively involved in regional and state library professional development. Matt has begun co-chairing a Genealogy Roundtable for the Connecticut Library Consortium, allowing him to connect and collaborate with other libraries and organizations. Lyndsey had her proposal accepted to the Connecticut Library Association's Annual Conference. She will be presenting in April about our "Dying to Talk About This" program.

Building News:

- Shawn from Public Works and his team have been very good to us! Bill's heat is fixed and stable, just in time for Children Department at Gales Ferry to falter. Shawn and his crew are checking in to maintain that unit as well. Fortunately, the

heat at Gales Ferry is struggling but still supplying some hot air. There is very little risk of pipes freezing. Shawn is hopeful for an easy and quick fix.

Town News:

- As a reminder, FOIA Training is being offered by the Town for staff, commission members, and volunteers on Tuesday, February 10, at 3:30 PM and 6 PM 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.

3. Investment Working Group

Investment Working Group met last month. The Janney funds are in line with the Russell 1000 Value Index, and slightly exceeding in. Sal Tocco is working with the fiduciary of an estate and the William Holton Fund may be the beneficiary of an estate.

4. Friends of Ledyard Library

Friends of the Ledyard Library - Bag promotion - fill a bag for \$20.00 at the Gales Ferry Library is ongoing in February. New leadership has hit the ground running and seem to be doing well.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. MOTION** to approve the Library Commission Special Meeting minutes January 12, 2026.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Wendy Hellekson

SECONDER: Rolf Racich

AYE 6 Bolduc Racich Grenger Diette Hellekson Wright

EXCUSED 3 Hightower Thorne Rumery

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Diette moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Ms. Hellekson.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE: 6-0 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.