

**Lydia Taft Pratt Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 9th, 2025**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Stacy Bryck at 5:02pm. Attending the meeting were Linda DeCarlo-Burns, Stacey Kripp, Dena Marger, and Dave Schottland.

Visitors: Marvin Luna

II. Additions to the Agenda

Discussion of Dummerston resident Marvin Luna joining LTP Board

III. Recognition of Visitors

Marvin Luna was recognized and welcomed.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by Dave to approve last meeting's minutes, which was seconded by Linda and the motion passed.

V. Treasurer's Report

a. Budget Report

- The budget was briefly discussed.
- The Building Bright Futures grant is coming to an end.
- There is still \$11,678.83 left to spend, so roughly \$42,000 has already been spent.
- Going forward the budget line "Rent" will be replaced with "Operating Expenses."
- According to information provided by former Dummerston Community Center Board member Paul Chapman, yearly expenses to run the building are roughly \$16,000.

b. Warrant Approval

Dave made a motion to approve the warrant, which was seconded by Linda, and the motion passed.

VI. Librarian's Report

The Librarian's Report can be found at the end of this document.

VII. Old Business

a. Discretionary Funds

A second warrant will continue to be submitted on the fourth Thursday of each month until the BBF grant has concluded.

b. Holiday Policy

- The library will be open on Indigenous People's Day.
- The librarian suggested that the board create a policy for which holidays the library will be closed.
- It was suggested that the librarian and children's library create a list.

c. Confidentiality Policy

This topic was tabled.

d. Halloween Party

- There has been some interest from community member Marvin Luna, Lydia's Friends member Sam Bledsoe, as well as other community members to help set up and run this party.
- A meeting will be scheduled by the librarian to plan the party.

VIII. New Business

a. CD

- On October 12th the CD will need to either roll over (for another seven months) or be cashed out.
- It is earmarked for capital improvements.
- Dena suggested that the board begin thinking about how to use it.
- Stacy raised the idea of using it to improve insulation in the building.
- Linda made a motion to roll over the CD for another seven months, which was seconded by Dave, and the motion passed.

b. New Trustee

- Marvin Luna is interested in potentially joining the LTP Board. He has a strong interest in libraries and helping out locally.
- Linda made a motion to appoint Marvin Luna to the board, which was seconded by Dave, and the motion passed.
- Dave will send an email to the Select Board to have Marvin officially appointed.

c. Financial Plan – Next Steps

- Linda wrote a financial plan draft.
- There are eight points to discuss, for which Linda expressed that we need a separate meeting to discuss. She will be scheduling this meeting.
- Select Board member Tom Nolan will be working with the LTP board to begin a transition for operating the building.

d. Room Rental Policy

Dena came up with a rental policy for the big meeting room, which will be discussed at the separate meeting about the financial plan.

e. Big (Meeting) Room Usability / Clutter

Currently the two weekly uses of the room are for cribbage and Tai chi.

Dave will email SB member Todd Davidson to request that the cribbage group set up and take down the tables each week for their use.

f. Recording Trustee Meetings

Dena will inquire with the town clerk where the town would like the recordings to be stored.

g. Executive Session

No executive session was needed.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.

Librarian Report - September 2025

- This month, we have been extremely busy implementing and learning the new Integrated Library System that was made possible by our membership in the Catamount Library Network. Our patrons seem to be enjoying the new catalog system. Several have already taken advantage of the ability to request their own books from other libraries. It was my intention to offer a public workshop in September demonstrating the features of the new catalog, but the month proved too busy and that was unable to happen. Hoping it will happen in October.
- I attended the Catamount Annual Meeting on October 7. Each year our library will sign onto the Catamount annual agreement and code of ethics statements, which I have done. Those are kept on file by one of the Catamount admins. Each year, we are responsible for paying dues to the network, which comes to \$800 for our library, and makes our membership in the network and our access to the catalog and all the services that come with it, possible.
- We are reworking and overhauling the way we collect and report out library usage statistics, thanks to a number of factors, including the enhanced capabilities of our new integrated library system. Stay tuned.
- I attended a professional development session on Artificial Intelligence at the Aldrich Public Library in Barre, VT on October 6. The need for this workshop was identified at the Vermont Library Association conference, which I attended last spring. There was much discussion on how to discuss AI with library patrons and what tools are available and what the advantages and drawbacks to using them may be. Librarians, in general, tend to be rather skeptical that the benefits of these tools are worth the potential costs. But this is on people's minds a lot lately, and we are likely to get questions about it.
- We are in the final weeks of spending down our grant from the Vermont Early Childhood Foundation. We've ordered additional furniture and materials and have been hosting pop up

activities for children, like the visit from story teller Jaquie Waters on Thursday, who presented a “Bluey” story hour, complete with games, songs and stories. Ten children and their grown-ups had a very fun time! We hope to continue to do as many of these pop up programs for kids as possible.

- Along those lines, we will be hosting a Halloween party for the trick-or-treaters of West Dummerston. Details tba...there may or may not be another bouncy house! Anyone interested in helping to plan this event should contact Dena at the library.
- Lydia's Friends pulled off a wildly successful fundraiser at the I-91 rest area on October 5. If you encounter any members of Lydia's Friends, you should tell them how much you love and appreciate them. And, if you want to be a member of Lydia's Friends you should contact Catherine O'Callaghan.
- Our regular programs are chugging along, including the Sensory Playtime Program, the Picturebook Story Time, Coffee Chat, the Cook Book Club and the regular Book Club. Regular attendance in all these programs has been dwindling, but I wonder if that's because the weather has been so spectacular. Our Magic: The Gathering Program met weekly over the summer but is now meeting twice monthly, and we have a new weekly program for adult table-top gamers: *Shadowdark*. Our bookclub will meet next on

October 23rd at 6:30. We are reading Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House*. Cook Book Club is meeting a week later than usual: October 21 at 5:30, and the theme is weird, wacky, halloweenie foods!

- People seem to be excited to come out for our special programming, though. We co-sponsored a number of speakers with Lydia's Friends in September and October on a wide diversity of topics. Different people came out for each different program. We will be looking to have more adult programming in the future.
- Our presence at the Dummerston Cares Senior Luncheon has gotten off to a slow start, but we are hoping to have a presence there at least once each month, and hopefully twice. Anyone interested in volunteering with this program should get in touch.
- I will be out of town from the 10th through the 19th, and we have no staff for Saturday, the 18th. So, we will be closed on that day.