

**Lydia Taft Pratt Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 12th, 2026**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Holiday at 11:00am. Attending the meeting were Erin Riley, Stacy Bryck, Linda DeCarlo-Burns, Kate Jansak (via Zoom), and Dave Schottland.

Guests: Carrie Towle (Events Committee Chairperson and Calendar Manager)

Additions to Agenda

Sign design

Recognition of Visitors

Carrie Towle introduced herself to the board. She has taken the role of Events Committee Chairperson and is currently working with Catherine O'Callaghan to manage the DCC&L calendar.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Linda made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from June which was seconded by Lyle, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

a. Budget Report

The budget was briefly discussed.

b. Warrant Approval

- This was the first time that a warrant for the Community Center portion of the organization was presented. In July there were \$900 in expenses and \$811 in income.
- Dave made a motion to approve this month's warrant, which was seconded by Linda, and the motion passed.

Librarian's Report

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

- There were 363 visits to the library in July.
- There is a new adult board game club, which was a success and will meet monthly.
- There was also a well-attended calligraphy event.

Old Business

a. Tech Plan

- Erin will be printing surveys and finding other community members to poll about tech needs.

- Linda suggested putting some surveys in the Town Clerk's office.
- b. Artwork Display Policy – Third Reading
- Erin made a few small changes:
 - If the librarian denies someone's artwork for display, that party may appeal to the board.
 - A line for a signature was included.
 - Carrie suggested having an art night in which local children's art work be put on display, and families can come in to see. This could be a collaboration with the school.
 - Dave made a motion to adopt the new artwork policy, which was seconded by Linda, and the motion passed.
- c. Dummerston Cares Update
- Erin has a meeting scheduled with Dummerston Cares on August 24th, at which time she will speak with their volunteers about getting books to library patrons who are homebound.
 - Carrie suggested that the library attend the tea hour events, where a small selection of books could be offered.
- d. Bylaws Continued Update
- To change the length of trustee terms, an article must be presented at Town Meeting in March 2027. The article will need to be written by the Select Board. The DCC&L board would like to see the article in advance of the due date.
- e. Event Coordination
- Shared by Carrie Towle : The Community Café Committee had its first meeting last Sunday (August 9th). Christine Goepp will be overseeing this committee and running this event. The group is still trying to decide whether to meet on one Saturday or Sunday each month. 10:00am – 12:00pm will likely be the time.
 - Carrie asked whether the back driveway is plowed for accessibility to the downstairs room. It was confirmed that it is plowed.
 - Erin has been sending rental inquiries to Catherine O'Callaghan, and she will CC Carrie.
 - Erin was wondering about how to label events on the calendar. Linda stated that there should really only be two types: DCC&L or private.
- f. Keys to the Building / Locks Update
- Dave will look into electronic keypads, reaching out again to Dick's Locks, as well as the contact suggested by Carrie.
- g. Request to Select Board re: Shorter Terms
- Discussed during bylaws discussion.
- h. Sign Design

A proof will be sent to Catherine O’Callaghan and Eileen Lyons (they are paying for the new sign), and pending their approval, the sign will be purchased.

New Business

a. DCC&L Usage Agreement

- Catherine O’Callaghan has been editing the agreement and sending it to the board for review.
- Lyle suggested that the current draft looks acceptable and should be used and updated as necessary. Lyle will inform Catherine.
- Linda suggesting updating the capacity of various rooms, once the board learns what those capacities are.
- It was suggested that a rescheduling policy be included.

b. Playground

- Kate and Catherine have been discussing the idea of installing a playground.
- A catalogue with equipment options was passed around.
- Certain codes will need to be met, as well as ongoing yearly maintenance.

c. Silent Book Club

- Carrie shared an idea about a book club in which people bring the books they are reading. People present what their books are about, and then going to sit and silently read in the same room. If people are interested in others’ books, they can go visit and have a conversation. Snacks would be an option as well.
- Erin will schedule a book chat, following this idea.
- Kate might be willing to run a group like this.
- Kate would also like to potentially host a Victorian literature book group, where she would facilitate discussions.

Dates

Next DCCL Meeting: Wednesday, September 9th.

At 12:58 Dave made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting concluded.

Dummerston Community Center and Library

Librarian’s Report

Reported at the August 12, 2026 Trustees Meeting

Statistics for July 1-July 31

Library Visits	
-----------------------	--

Adult Visits	273
Children Visits	90
Total Visits	363

Library Programs	
DCCL&L Community Meeting	7/01=27
Summer Arts and Crafts	7/01=12, 7/08=11, 7/15=11, 7/22=9, 7/29=7
Summer Storytime	7/01=0, 7/09=3, 7/18=2, 7/23=3, 7/30=3
Sensory Playtime	7/06=7, 7/13=5, 7/20=9, 7/27=8
Magic: The Gathering Learn & Play Club	7/07=3, 7/14=2, 7/21=3, 7/28=5

1

"Little Monk Writes Rain" Storytime and Calligraphy with translator Rachel Wang Yung-Hsin	7/11=16
Lydia Taft Pratt Book Club	7/11=4
Board Game Night for Adults	7/16=3
Little House on the Prairie TV Show Screening	7/23=3, 7/30=0
Red Cross Blood Drive	7/30=40
Total program attendance	196

Non-Library Programs	
Friends Meeting	7/9=4
Private Event 7/11	35
Total Non-Library program attendance	39

Reference Questions	87
New Library Cards	6
Computer Use	3

2

Total Checkouts (overdrive/libby)	208
eBooks	51
Audiobooks	157
Unique Users	32
Total Physical Materials Circulation	197
Checkouts issued	210
Renewals	41

1. **Library Cards Expiring in August:** The library switched to its current library system, Koha, one year ago in August. This means that many library cards will expire in August,

which may affect patrons' use of Libby/Overdrive or other online services. In order to renew their library card, patrons need to call or come into the library to make sure all of their contact information is correct.

2. **Summer Reading:** We are finishing up Summer Reading events, including a successful Arts and Crafts event on Wednesdays that brought many families to the library. We also held Magic: The Gathering Learn & Play Club once a week instead of the usual twice a month, which was a big hit. MagiKids sent us many new cards for the program, and Ray Gun Comics donated a few starter decks as well.
3. **Bounce House Event:** The Bounce House Event happened on August 1st, which was rescheduled from earlier due to the weather. 24 people went to the event. We had a Building Block bounce house from Bounce Above the Rest!
4. **Dummerston Conservation Commission:** The Dummerston Conservation Commission recommended their first book, A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold in their

3

newsletter, and donated a copy to the library for patrons to check-out. There is currently a display with the book in the library in the Vermont section.

5. The “Little Monk Writes Rain” Storytime and Calligraphy Event with translator Rachel

Wang Yung-Hsin: The event with translator Rachel Wang Yung-Hsin happened on July 11th, with a great turnout of 16 people! After reading the book, Rachel led a calligraphy activity where everyone wrote the Chinese word for “rain.” ByWay Books & More had copies of the book for sale, and a portion of the sales are going to be donated to the library.

6. **Board Game Club for Adults:** The first meeting of the Board Game Club for Adults met on July 16th. There was enough interest to continue to meet monthly, so our next scheduled event is on August 20th at 5pm!
7. **Events Calendar:** Erin and the Events committee have been working on merging the Dummerston Community Center Events Calendar with our Library Events Calendar. Current events have been merged into a google calendar you can see on the library’s website: <https://dummerstonlibrary.org/calendar/>
8. **Newsletter:** The library can now send multiple emails every month for event and library updates through MailerLite. People can now sign up for the email newsletter and see the newsletter archive at the library’s website: <https://dummerstonlibrary.org/newsletter-sign-up/>
9. **Legislative Update:** Mike Mrowicki, the Vermont State Representative, will give a Legislative Update on August 20th at 6:30pm in the downstairs room.

10. **Museum Pass Update:** The Montshire Museum of Science pass has 13 of 24 admissions remaining, and the Magic Wings pass has 5 of 10 admissions remaining. The Eric Carle Museum and Brattleboro Music Center passes have each been checked out once since the library began

advertising the museum passes in May. So far, the 2026 Bandwagon Series, Echo Leahy Center, and Vermont State Historic Sites and State Parks passes have not been checked out this summer.

4

11. **Community Cookbook Club:** Cookbook Club will have a special community outdoor meeting on August 18th, with a grill available for the picnic/sandwich theme. Everyone is welcome to bring a picnic/sandwich dish to share, or just show up to enjoy the picnic food! The library has relevant cookbooks available for checkout.

12. **Scott Farm Orchard Storytime:** Stacey will start her storytime series at Scott Farm Orchard on August 21st at 10:30am. Look out for the other two events in the series on September 18 and October 16.

13. **Technology Questionnaire:** Erin sent out a technology questionnaire as a starting point to gauge community technology needs through the library newsletter and social media. Based on the seven responses received so far, the primary needs identified are **reliable internet/Wi-Fi throughout the building, updated technology available for public use, such as a faster computer, and comfortable workspaces with tables and chairs where patrons can bring and use their own laptops**. I will continue promoting the questionnaire online to gather additional responses. The next step will be to provide printed copies in the library so that patrons who may not see the questionnaire online have an opportunity to participate. This will help provide a broader picture of community technology needs before determining what improvements or additions should be prioritized.

14. **Biblio+ Service:** The library has signed up for Biblio+ streaming TV service through the Green Mountain Library Consortium for about \$222. Erin is working on setting this up, and it should be available for patrons to use starting in September. Biblio+ is a streaming service that partners with libraries to offer patrons unlimited access to 8,000+ titles, including 3,500+ BBC titles and episodes with unlimited simultaneous access. The library can purchase this service for the library starting in September.

5