

Stowe Free Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2025

Present: K.Spear, P.Lambert, S. Gaines, L.Polk, A.Colavito, S. Calvo
(Director)

Absent: S.Edwards, B.Mullin

Call to order: 8:15am

Minutes: Approved previous minutes that were posted to website.

Treasurers Report: Operating account \$5,896, Copley Account \$12,881, Endowment account \$1,477,935.

Website update: Stowe library's website (separate from town) is ready to lauch.

Friends update:

New treasurer has been found. Board members note that pamphlets outdated (eg references to obsolete indoor library sale). Friends has been contacted by JCOGS to re-house their Free Pantry – discussion about whether Board was comfortable with placement near library premises – but decided to wait to hear any proposal.

Many events planned:

- 10/16: local author talk (interview style) expected to be well-attended
- Friends of the Library cocktail hour (and recruitment event)
- Halloween trivia: next Thursday
- Halloween decorating and trick-or-treating
- Plan for little free libraries

Director's Report:

Alert that the town plans to change budget creation process, and anticipated increasing staff for Parks & Rec, Fire, and Police but no other library staffing changes expected. Discussion that we need to petition selectboard for additional staff in the coming years. Discussion that two staff really needed at all times just for running library, and that volunteers can only augment some of these needs but not replace them. Discussion of excellent press lately from the Stowe Reporter. Discussion of change of library hours starting next month (10am-5pm MWF, 12pm-7pm TuTh, 10am-2pm S), as a 3 month trial period to allow staff additional time for off-desk programming work. At November Board meeting, we will discuss metrics to know if this trial period is meeting objectives. Discussion that the largest book vendor (Baker and Taylor) is going out of business, which will greatly effect library sourcing – since historically this vendor has provided steep (~30%) discounts on new books as well as performing library book preparation (e.g. strengthening binding, etc) which library staff are now having to perform. As a stop-gap, library director has cancelled ~100 backordered books and sourced them from

Amazon, which caused box pileup complaints from the post office. L. Polk is investigating other sourcing options for the future.

Facilities report: None.

New Business :

Shelving: Presentation from L. Polk and discussion of plans for new shelving to replace unsafe shelving units that have caused some collapse. L. Polk has experience designing, and implementing such shelving needs.

- Board unanimously approved budget not to exceed \$33,745 for shelving purchase and and installation.

Library closing Saturday after Thanksgiving. Library will be closed Thursday-Friday for Thanksgiving, and L. Polk worries about staffing for that following Saturdays if Staff request vacation time that day. Discussion of importance of library staying open if possible, especially given limited indoor options during school vacation week.

- Board unanimously approved motion that, in the event that staffing issues arise from vacation requests, the director has permission to close Saturday 11/29/2025.

Next Meeting: 8:00am Friday Nov 14, 2025.

Adjournment: 9:40am