

**Stowe Free Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026**

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

Absent: B.Mullin

Visit library staff: Nancy, Timber, Molly

Call to order: 8:10am

Minutes: Minutes approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Operating account \$10,058.99, Copley Account \$8712.18, Endowment account \$1,567,183.99.

Of 1.5M endowment

- \$121,341 is restricted principal that can never be spent.
- Everything else can be spent, but certain restrictions (eg Montanari fund can only be spent on materials)
- Board plans to spend up to 4% of non-principal in accordance with restrictions

Restrictions:

Eg Downer-Slayton fund \$6874.29 principal (not to be spent), and income from it has to be spent for the library. But other donations have been added to that Downer-Slayton fund over the years.

Other (Montanari), principal can only be spent with Selectboard approval, income can be only spent on material.

Friends update:

Charlie Nadozzi coming tonight sponsored by local chocolate businesses

Director's Report:

Lots of programming:

Early childhood programs: playgroup and 2 story times for <3yo, plus occasional additional

Growth of demand for fiber arts, including bunch of 10-11yos (4 boys, 6 girls regular)

Cookbook club

Cardgame club

Screening of Gone Guys (~50 people)

Author talks/events

Policy:

Gift policy changes proposed (S. Edwards), suggest change name of Trustees.

Suggestion: create new “Stowe Free Library General Endowment Fund” (for unrestricted funds) – want to get it right to make sure it’s not used to replace the town’s funding of library. Board will consider additional language.

Code of Conduct policy: concerned that policy would not hold up (“no weapons in the library”). Potentially change to “No brandishing of weapons” to protect staff and patrons. Suggest a visual conduct poster/bookmark. Director proposes changes for policy, for board to consider and vote on next month.

Disruptor policy: related to first-amendment auditors.

Facilities report:

Shelving project update.

New Business :

Grant project: sign for cultural campus, lighted

Changed hours: Staff discussion about benefits of reduced hours open to public. Finance has agreed to let Charles and Director hire subs for replacements.

Next Meeting: 8:00am Thurs February 12, 2026.

Adjournment: 9:47am