

GREENWICH FREE LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7:00 pm

Main Library

Attendees: Patrice Abate, Tony Jordan, Mary Ann Spiezio, Suzanne Seay, Lynne Weygint, Brie Gaynair, Ellen Fronhofer, Cliff Oliver, Aaron Northrup

1. Call to order 7:02 pm
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of proposed January and Annual 2026 Minutes as well as January Financials (separate documents).
Tony made a motion to approve the Annual and January meeting minutes and the January financials. Cliff seconds. Board approved.
3. Board Committee Reports
 - a. Facilities Committee (Aaron, Brie, Paul, Patrice) – Audiovisual equipment is in and working. They are still learning how to use all the features. The Bose speakers are excellent as well.
 - b. Finance & Fundraising Committee (Mary Ann, Suzanne, Patrice) – Patrice sent an email to Veronique explaining that her request was approved and asked her to get a hold of Tony regarding the agreement.
 - c. Material Review Committee (Aaron, Brie, Suzanne) – No report.
 - d. Policy & Audit Committee (Brie, Lynne, Tony) – No report.
 - e. Board Recruitment (Cliff, Patrice) – No report.
 - f. Personnel & HR Committee (Cliff, Lynne, Mary Ann, Paul) – Suzanne and Patrice spent an hour with a consultant. Suzanne asked her about her comment regarding staff surveys. She said there is always the toxic 20% and who will use the survey to vent. People never say anything is fine and they blame the Director for everything even if it is a Board decision or something out of the Director's control. She suggested having a suggestion box instead for the staff to use with all suggestions coming to the Board. We decided not to do the 360-degree feedback that we had discussed previously based on this feedback.
4. Gill Room Report (presented by Sandy McReynolds, Historian) – Sandy was not present but provided a report to the Board that she had two genealogy and two general history

requests. She is working on the Greenwich-Easton Historical Association annual meeting presentation that she will do on March 1st.

5. Friends of the Greenwich Free Library Update – March 26th 6 – 7:30 pm drop in event, more of an open house to recruit volunteers for Greenwich Gardeners, Library Volunteers, Friends Volunteers, Gill Room Volunteers, etc. We will ask the Friends if they want to host a book sale that evening as well. Sydney Nichols is creating a flyer for us to promote the event. Lynne will email Sue Roods and Diane Thomas to let them know that the Board is actively recruiting new Friends members who are interested in fundraising.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Financials previously approved. Ellen mentioned that the new accounts created are not printing on the reports, but they will get that fixed. The totals are correct. We have applied to Tech Soup for QuickBooks online. We already had an account number with Tech Soup and Marge knew that. We used them to purchase our current software. Tech Soup will migrate all the data from our current system to QB online once we are approved.
7. Library Director’s Report –

Year-to-date [Statistics](#)

	Visitors to the library	Community space use	Community attendees	Library Programs	Library program and event attendees	Early Childhood programs	Early Childhood program attendees	Volunteer hours	Farm 2 Library participants	Pounds of waste diverted
Jan 2026	3246	57	384	34	356	6	166	124	220	1,089.20
Jan 2025	3240	58	433	28	386	8	235	148	211	537.8

Check outs	Borrowers	Holds satisfied	New cards issued	Computer sessions	WiFi uses	Libby checkouts	New Libby users	Hoopla checkouts	New Hoopla users	Kanopy plays	New Kanopy users
2415	401	511	10	147	657	568	8	41	33	109	2
2732	451	647	14	161	779	531	12			92	

[STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS:](#)

Public Promotion

A1 Communications

Identified goals for 2026 include recording and analysis of digital media engagement. The following represent some January observations regarding Facebook (FB), Instagram (IG), and our monthly email newsletter.

	FB content posted	FB views	FB Interactions	IG Content posted	IG views	IG interactions	Newsletter views	
Jan 2026		25	27.4K	395	18	4.2K	187	632

A2 Expand patron base A3 Outreach & Reduce Barriers to Access

I have reached out to Rulyn Graves, chair of the Chamber of Commerce to inquire about collaborating with us on welcome packets for new Greenwich residents. Ideally, new families and individuals would visit the library to pick up a packet, which could include coupons and information

from a variety of local businesses and organizations as well as library card applications and information about our services.

Programming

B1 Programs that fulfill patron needs

- Current and upcoming programs and events can be found [on our website calendar](#).
- We hosted our 3rd annual Lunar New Year party on Tuesday February 17, and had about 35 attendees.
- Board member Brie Gaynair has volunteered to host a Libby and Hoopla training for patrons on Tuesday March 10 at 4:00pm.

B2 Give local artists, writers, creators, and experts a platform:

- Board member Cliff Oliver, along with Art Brod and Judy Ellers of Whipple City Gallery, put together a Year of the Horse art show to officially open on Lunar New Year.
- Local author and library volunteer, Marie Grimmke, spoke to a supportive and cheerful audience last week about her second book, Winter of the Green Ghost.
- Local forester and writer William Sargent, who is also staff member Emily Sargent's father-in-law, will read from and discuss his book Fifty Years a Dirt Forester on March 19th.

B3 creative and unique programs that introduce participants to new ideas or experiences:

- The first Pride Night event and film screening was rescheduled due to weather, and will occur on Saturday 2/21.
- Our first Art Café was a lot of fun, and several people asked if we would do it again

Partnerships

C1. C2 Local not-for-profits and businesses

- Staff member KC Scott and I met with two representatives from Comfort Food Community to discuss the Farm2Library program at Greenwich. The library, SALS, and the pantry are all very satisfied with this program, and we discussed upcoming opportunities and changes, including a push towards counting age demographics as part of our statistics for this program. So far, patrons are doing well with the self-reporting system.
- Building on a workshop that came out of the Aging in Community Series last year, an audiologist from the new Greenwich Medical Center office of the Glens Falls Hearing Center will discuss hearing problems and solutions at an upcoming event on March 24.

Place

- See Facilities report
- Our septic alarm went off last week, and Harold Snell came by on Thursday. There appears to be a frozen line, but the tanks have been emptied, and all is well for now as we wait for things to thaw. Evidently, this happened in 2015, and is almost certainly due to the extremely cold temperatures.
- The new A/V screen has been delivered and installed in the Community Room. There are some growing pains, and so far, although we are pleased with the quality, we are frustrated that it doesn't seem to have the really simple plug-and-play capabilities we were hoping for. But customer service so far has been excellent, so hopefully they will help us work out the kinks.

Preservation

- See Gill Room report

8. Period for Public Expression – None

9. Old Business – None

10. New Business – None

11. Dates of Future Board Meeting Calendar – The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6 pm.
12. Adjournment – **Aaron made a motion to adjourn. Lynne seconds. Board approved.**
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Digitally signed by Mary Ann Spiezio