Approved June 16, 2026

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:00 pm, April 8, 2026
At the library

Trustees present: Rob Rinaldi, Tania Aebi, Kathryn Price, Ginny Adams, Shirley Montagne, Zoe Tilley Poster, Catherine Tudish. Also present at the library: Carl Demrow, Secretary, Jen Spanier, Library Director, Kimberly Hotelling, Library Assistant, and Layna Moysich, the newly hired Library Director.

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Rob introduced newly hired Library Director Layna Moysich to the trustees followed by a brief round of introductions with some background on how the board and its committees function. There will be two weeks of overlap between Jen and Layna before Jen's directorship ends.

Rob asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Catherine moved and Kathryn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rob asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb 4th trustees meeting. Kathryn moved and Catherine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Shirley gave the bank account balances and spoke a bit about the YTD appeal revenues. Electricity continues to outpace its budget - in February the electric bill was nearly $1000. Shirley spoke a bit about our year to date performance She expects the budget will end up in a deficit as the year goes on, but the end of the year appeal should kick in and even things up- she is not worried about it. There was a brief discussion about the electric heating expense. Ginny moved to approve the treasurer's report and Catherine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director report: The Orange County Parent Child Center partnered with BML for story hour on March 26 which gave Erica a bit of a break. There may be more story hour collaborations with OCPCC in the future. The library held a well attended storytelling event on Feb 19th. Joyce McKeeman is willing to moderate future storytelling events if there is interest.
The CLiF rural library grant funded a dragon themed literacy program that Kimberly ran and was a big success. On March 11 there was an event on understanding AI with Dartmouth College staff. Westy Copeland ran needle felting program March 18th. There will be seed starting program next with a master gardener. On April 18th Erica Venutti will run an accordion book workshop. There will also be a paper weaving program and a children's author visit. And

maybe a chia head program!

Catherine's writers workshop, which has been going on for two years now, may have an open program for the writers to read for the public in the near future. There was a discussion about a gate for the children room. There will be a June 1 program at WRVS with a children's author. Jen, Kimberly, and Dean have started some of the computer and technology grant switchovers. There will be money left over for a technology fund.

Some interesting trends in the numbers: Jen has noticed that while we are steadily getting more use of the downloadable audio books and ebooks, somehow Kanopy plays are going down. There was some discussion of the potential causes that Kanopy use was going down. Rob noted that this was Jen's last meeting an director!

Buildings and Grounds: B&G dealt with some ice dams on the back side of the building this winter. BML has had a linden tree donated, thanks to Corinth tree warden Ginny Barlow. It will be planted on the north side of the building in the next few weeks. B&G also needs to finish the shed and put the solar panels on, and erect a stockade fence for the propane tanks (donated by Carole Freeman). We hopefully will get through the summer with the current tent. Septic tank pumping will happen some time this year.

Fundraising: The Spring Rumpus is May 23rd, with the plant and book sale and pizza and activities for the kids. There was a discussion about the book sale and how that has changed to be more focused and curated and less about volume.

June 27th is the Secret Garden Tour! Zoe and Shirley spoke a bit about how tickets will be available and how that event will be structured this year.

New business: The minutes from the emergency trustees meeting, most of which was in executive session, were presented for approval. Kathryn moved to approve the minutes and Catherine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

On April 20th, a party will be held at 6 pm to welcome Layna as the new director AND bid farewell to Jen. As noted earlier there will be two weeks of overlap between Jen and Layna.

Shirley moved to remove Carl Demrow from the checking account at WRSB and add Tania Aebi. Ginny seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be June 17th, Catherine will take minutes as Carl will be out of town.

Kathryn moved to adjourn and Catherine seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM..

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, Secretary