

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 23, 2026

at Rappahannock County Library, 4 Library Road, Washington, VA 22747

Victoria called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Confirmation of Quorum: In-person attendance were members of the Board of Trustees: Victoria Fortuna, John Beardsley, Bonnie Jewell, Maureen Harris, Michael Chamowitz, Patti Peterson, Kit Johnston and Jen Cable. Absent: Liz Conley. Also attending: Library Director Amanda Weakley, FOL Representatives Ruth Welch & Bill Nenniger, Rappahannock News Reporter Ireland Hayes and members of the public

The meeting agenda was amended, as approved, and was approved as presented.

The amended minutes, as approved, of June 25, 2026 of the Board Meeting were approved.

FOL Report: Ruth Welch from FOL reported that they are helping to sponsor the community event that will be held at the Library tomorrow. The FOL is reimbursing for food costs for the community event. She also reported they are working on their website and have Justin Cain helping with this effort. The FOL made a \$7000.00 donation to help support Children's Programs.

Public Comment: Public Hearing will take place at 5:30 after the Library Board Meeting

Report of the President: Victoria reported that the negotiations are still underway about the possibility of Library relocation to Rush River II.

Report of the Library Director: Amanda reported that the programming is going well and busy. Sewing workshops, art classes, and the Summer Reading Program are well liked and continue to grow in popularity. Steve Cox, owner of Soft Washy Hydro Clean, who has cleaned the Library exterior in the past has offered to do so again at no charge. On July 15, the library welcomed Heather Wallace, a new librarian, Youth Services. She encouraged all to attend the community event celebration that will be held tomorrow at the Library from 12-2.

Report of the Treasurer: Treasurer Debbie Knick was absent and the report was presented by Bonnie. The report is through the date as of June 2026. There will be an additional report forthcoming for the final report for Fiscal Year. The Virginia Investment Pool Report was also through the end of June 2026. There was also a Virginia Investment Pool Performance Report and Market & Economic Update, Q4 FY 2026 provided as well. Patti inquired as to if there were higher interest rate amounts available for larger investment amounts and Bonnie stated that Debbie would be able to inquire / ask if that would be possible and report back.

Committee Reports:

Personnel: None

Negotiating Special Committee: Victoria reported that the negotiations are ongoing and they will have a draft lease coming soon.

Communications Committee: None

Capital Campaign Special Committee: None

Expansion/Renovation: John reported that they have an updated design plan – but still a work in progress. One new design aspect is that the Library would now have a double height ceiling to provide light and clearstory windows – as there will no longer be commercial offices that had been proposed on a second floor above the proposed Library design plan. Michael inquired as to if the Library would have a second floor in the future and John stated the goal is to keep the Library to one floor so as to be able to have adequate staff to manage the Library space.

Buildings and Grounds: None

Finance: None

Policy: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting recessed at 5:00 until Public Hearing at 5:30.

Public Hearing commenced at 5:30 with opening remarks from Library Director Amanda Weakley, Information Presentation by Victoria Fortuna, Board President and Design Presentation by John Beardsley, Vice President. Followed by comments from members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30

Submitted by Jen Cable, Secretary


Victoria Fortuna, President


Date