

Minutes – Cobleigh Public Library meeting – April 21, 2026

Attending: Library Director Kaitlin Wood, Trustee President Jessica Simpson, Treasurer Mary Thomas, Secretary Sylvia Dodge, Trustee Bruce Starbuck, Trustee Susan Kuecker, President of Friends of Cobleigh Library Dorothy Allard - guests Cathy Boykin, Mildred LaBeur, and Beth Pearce.

The minutes of the March 24, 2006, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Bruce, second by Sylvia.

Friends Report – Dorothy informed the trustees that her group has decided not to hold a plant sale this spring. The group will replace the event with something that has to do with the annual Stars and Stripes Festival, the specifics still to be determined.

Selection of Design for New Bookmobile Exterior – The trustees and guests voted on a design to be used on the bookmobile's exterior sides. The second-place design will be incorporated to some degree on the back of the vehicle.

In other bookmobile business, Kaitlin reported that Chuck's Flooring of East Burke installed the carpet at no charge. A Starlink system, which was paid for by the Friends of Cobleigh Library, has been installed on the top of the bookmobile. A local carpenter, Mike Leonard, should complete the work building shelving within the vehicle soon. RCT will handle the "wrapping" of the vehicle (the transfer of the exterior design onto the vehicle). RCT has also given a place for the vehicle to be parked and has donated free electrical charging for the vehicle.

Treasurer's Report – Mary reported on a meeting she recently had with the library's financial manager, Joe LeClair. The library's current endowment is \$701,305. Mary reported the amounts of money from the investment funds that are withdrawn each month to support the library: Sanborn Fund, \$308 per month; Copeland Fund, \$1,478 per month; Consolidated (General) Fund, \$242 per month. Two funds are currently not used for monthly funding (Rebeckah Lodge Fund and Shores Fund). Those two funds are instead considered as funds to grow. The Edie Bell-Brown Fund, which is dedicated to support the bookmobile, is also not used for a monthly draw-down.

Mary reported that the annual payment to the financial advising firm Edward Jones is in the \$1,656 range. She recommended that any budget surpluses the library might have in the annual general budget be put into the endowment funds.

Sell Old Bookmobile – Two libraries put in bids to buy the old bookmobile – Whitefield Public Library and Enosburg Public Library. Both offered \$5,000. On a motion from Sylvia, seconded by Mary, it was voted to sell the bookmobile to the Whitefield library.

Director's Report –

Vermont Reads: An application has been sent for the library's participation on the 2026 Vermont Reads program. The book selection is *Charity and Sylvia*. Kaitlin said 50 books have been requested and she expects to organize a program in conjunction with the book sometime this autumn.

Upcoming Events: On May 13, the library will host an Arts & Culture Community Conversation. On June 12, the library will host a community conversation to determine how a recently acquired ALA Accessibility Grant should be spent. The library will host an AARP Fraud Watch presentation in June.

Donations and Grants: A patron recently donated \$500 to the library. A \$250 gift was received from Efficiency Vermont. A \$500 in-kind book donation was approved for the library by Penguin Random House. Lyndon Ace Hardware has forwarded \$1,559 to the library that was raised through the store's "Round-Up" campaign. The library has been notified that it has been selected to participate in the White Market's Coins for Community Campaign.

New Programs: Coming this summer will be a free, American Sign Language program for adults. A new volunteer will start working soon at the library, Sharie Stranahan. The library is expecting to be used as a drop-off zone for free meals for children during the summer months through a partnership with the St. Johnsbury School District.

****For the full Director's Report, refer to the attached documents****

Coin Drop Date – July 11 was selected as the coin drop date, with July 25 being the back-up date.

Bookmobile Event – Kaitlin will research dates for this event. The plan is to "unveil" the new bookmobile to the public during the month of June, at a time before elementary school children leave school for the summer.

There were no order sheets this month for the trustees to sign.

The next meeting of the Cobleigh Public Library Board of Trustees will be on May 19, starting at 3 pm.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mary, seconded by Bruce.

Director's Report

April 21, 2026

Circulation Statistics For March: 3,253 items (similar to last month's 3,198 figure).

Print Books Circulated: 2,643

Adult Fiction	Adult Nonfiction	Juvenile Fiction	Juvenile Nonfiction	Large Print Books	Interlibrary Loan Books	Bookmobile Checkouts
866	334	607	281	63	236	256

Other Items Circulated: 610

DVDs / Videos	Attraction / Park Passes	Audiobooks On CD	Libby / E-Books	Library of Things	Puzzles / Games	Charging Ports
51	0	20	508	2	18	11

Patrons/Computers Statistics:

We had **1,371 patrons** visit the library in March, and **183 patrons** use our computers/WiFi.

Programs & Community Engagement

- **Book Club:** Earlier today, our Book Club group discussed *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton, which was the 2025 Vermont Reads selection. I really enjoyed it! The storyline even made me emotional a few times. Penny Lane, a trained therapy dog, attended the program again, and she will continue to visit the Book Club each month. *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult will be the next novel discussed by the group on May 19th.
- **2026 Vermont Reads:** I asked for 50 copies of the 2026 Vermont Reads Book, *Charity & Sylvia*, by Tillie Walden, and our application was approved! The Book Club discussion for that story will be in September, and I am also working on getting the author to visit the library to discuss their work as a published, skilled, and professional cartoonist.
- **Special Events:** On April 17th, Sophi Veltrop of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources offered a free climate conservation seminar upstairs in the library. This event was related to *The Light Pirate*, since both dealt with the topic of climate change. Additionally, next month on May 13th, the library will host an Arts & Culture Community Conversation with Cynthia Stewart of the Lyndon Downtown Revitalization Committee (LDRC), and likewise, on June 12th, I will hold a Community Conversation for people who wish to provide input on how the ALA Accessibility Grant should be spent. This is a required component of the grant, and we already have a few patrons who have expressed interest in joining the conversation and providing some valuable feedback. Lastly, the library will host an AARP Fraud Watch presentation in June
- **Weekly Programming:** We continue to offer a fun story-time program on Tuesdays (at 4 pm) and on Wednesdays (at 10 am), as well as a Baby/Toddler Play Group on Fridays (at 10 am). This is in addition to our weekly computer/cell-phone assistance group every Tuesday at

10:30 am, a Dungeons & Dragons game on Tuesday/Thursday evenings, and French Club, Scrabble, and Chess Clubs on Thursday evenings. The "My Favorite Book" program for families also continues to take place every second Saturday of the month. We have also added several new recurring programs for adults, including an Audiobook (first and third Friday of the month), Chair Yoga (first Friday of the month), a Romance Book Club (second Tuesday of the month), and a Spanish Conversation Club (last Tuesday of the month).

Exciting Developments

- **Donations & Grants:** The library recently received a \$500 donation from a patron, as well as \$250 from Vermont Efficiency for allowing them to set up a booth in the library earlier this month after Chair Yoga. Furthermore, I found out last week that our grant application for a \$500 in-kind book donation was approved by the Penguin Random House. This is another national grant that we have earned this year, second behind the American Library Association (ALA) giving us \$10,000 for accessibility upgrades. I also accepted a \$1,559 check from Lyndon Ace Hardware from their Round Up Campaign, and we received enough votes to be selected as one of the upcoming months for White Market's Coins for Community Campaign. Now we are just waiting to hear back about the HUD elevator grant, and I also applied for some funding from Bernie Sanders' Congressional grants.
- **UVM Pilot Program:** Last month, I was accepted into a pilot program with the University of Vermont (UVM) that grants me access to the university's diverse digital collections for the next year, in exchange for me attending four training sessions (two over Zoom, and two in person). As a result, if patrons have any interest in a particular topic, want assistance with a research project, or wish to have a specific article printed out, our library staff can help. This pilot program will continue until March 2027.

Looking Ahead

- **Adult ASL:** I reached out to a woman named Christina Hastings, since she has experience teaching American Sign Language (ASL) to adults. She might start free classes & tutoring sometime this summer.
- **New Volunteer:** A patron named Sharie Stranahan has asked to volunteer at the library, so she will be helping out once a week in the afternoon. She has expressed interest in helping us with the gardening out front (yay!), and she will participate in the Accessibility Community Conversation to provide her input as a woman with hearing impairments.
- **Meals For Kids:** We will likely be a drop-off zone for free meals for kids during the summer. This would be a partnership with the Saint Johnsbury School District, and the meals will be available for any child, regardless of their town residence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaitlin Wood
Library Director
Cobleigh Public Library