

Minutes – Cobleigh Public Library meeting – September 22, 2026

Attending – Library Director Kaitlin Wood, Trustee Treasurer Mary Thomas, Trustee Secretary Sylvia Dodge, Trustee Susan Kuecker, & Dorothy Allard (President of the Friends of the Cobleigh Library)

The minutes of the last meeting (June 23rd) were approved on a motion by Mary, seconded by Sylvia.

Friends Report – Dorothy reported that the Friends of Cobleigh Library are now preparing for the Book Sale next month on October 16th and October 17th.

Treasurer's Report – Mary gave the trustees information about the library's investment funds to date, and indicated that it might be useful to have Joe Leclerc of Edward Jones come speak at another meeting. Kaitlin also explained that the library is on track with spending this year and will likely end 2026 with a small surplus.

Order Sheets - The trustees signed monthly order sheets.

Director's Report – See attached document.

Town Appropriations – Kaitlin has already started collecting signatures for each of the towns. The Trustees will decide who goes to each town next month.

Bookmobile Bank Account – Kaitlin asked to speak to the Selectboard about potentially merging the library's bank account and the bookmobile bank account, but this request was denied. Now she will request that the town complete the bookmobile reimbursement process at least once a month.

Building Updates – The next big project on the horizon is for an automatic door opener to be installed on the library's side door. Kaitlin will pay for this project using the ALA \$10,000 Accessibility Grant. Also, Kaitlin intends to apply for a Vermont Preservation Trust grant to potentially repair or replace the stone steps out front and repoint the brick.

The date and time of the next meeting will be determined by email within the next week.

Director's Report September 22, 2026

Circulation Statistics For August: 3,206 items (similar to last month's figure of 3,011).

Print Books Circulated: 2,598

Adult Fiction	Adult Nonfiction	Juvenile Fiction	Juvenile Nonfiction	Large Print Books	Interlibrary Loan Books	Bookmobile Checkouts
856	330	616	268	57	218	253

Other Items Circulated: 608

DVDs / Videos	Attraction / Park Passes	Audiobooks On CD	Libby / E-Books	Library of Things	Puzzles / Games	Charging Ports

51	2	18	508	4	12	13
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Patrons/Computers Statistics:

We had **1,411 patrons** visit the library in August, and **179 patrons** use our computers/WiFi.

Exciting Developments

- **New Grants:** We were just approved for a \$3,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation's 2026 Northeast Kingdom Fund. This money will be used for three projects — specifically, another American Sign Language (ASL) class for kids, another full year of Chair Yoga, and a new program where caregivers can meet and talk while enjoying a yummy meal. Additionally, I will learn whether we are approved for the HUD grant (to fix the elevator) sometime next month, and I am currently in the process of applying for a Vermont Preservation Trust grant to fix or replace the front steps and repoint the old brick.
- **Indoor Renovations:** We recently had our children's piano cleaned and tuned by Emerson Gale & Piano Service, and we had a Koala baby-changing station hung up on the bathroom wall in the children's room. We owe a big thank you to Four Corners Carpentry & Restoration for completing this installation for free, which was incredibly kind! Both of these renovations were made possible thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association. The Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant will also allow us to buy accessible board games, text-to-speech devices, and even a stair climber for patrons with mobility limitations, plus we are excited to install an automatic door opener for our side entrance. We hope to finish these projects by the end of next month.
- **Notary Services:** If you ever need to have a document notarized, I can help now! I recently became an authorized notary in the state of Vermont, and I am happy to provide this service for free to anyone who needs it. We provide several other services at the library as well, such as scanning, faxing, printing, copying, and more.
- **Old Bookmobile:** It's the end of an era! Last month, Colleen and I dropped off our "Books on Wheels III" vehicle at the Whitefield Public Library in New Hampshire, where it will continue to bring stories and smiles to a new town and generation. Thank you so much to Whitefield Library Director, Courtney Vashaw, for purchasing and giving it a lovely new home as your library undergoes a big renovation project.

Programs & Community Engagement

- **Book Club:** Tomorrow, the Cobligh Library Book Club will discuss the *The Book Club For Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick. Next month, we will discuss *For Michele* by local author Thaddeus Robinson (who is from Groton, Vermont), and he is planning on stopping by the Book Club at least for a little while.
- **Author Events:** We had a fantastic time hosting two incredible authors over the past month. First up was Garret Keizer, who read passages from his newest book, *Starting From Paterson* on July 30th. Then on August 24th, we had T. Greenwood (better known as

beloved local, Tammy Greenwood) read from her latest release (and 16th novel) "Everything Has Happened." Both authors filled up our event area upstairs, and they were also kind enough to sign copies of their respective stories at the end of each program. Thank you to Green Mountain Books & Prints for co-sponsoring these fun author events with us!

- **VABVI:** John Thomas of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) set up an information booth in our lobby on September 4th from 10 am to 2 pm.
- **Conservation Dog Events:** Jane Jackson and her super smart pup, Tera, visited the library for a program about conservation dogs on September 9th (intended for kids, who enjoyed listening to a story on the same topic) and September 18th (for adults, who witnessed a presentation and live demonstration of Tera in action).
- **Upcoming Special Events:** This Wednesday, families can enjoy a visit from the Arts Bus, while next Monday (September 28th), the library will host a Fraud Protection & Financial Safety presentation put on by Passumpsic Bank representatives. Looking ahead to next month, we have two big events on the horizon — a book event with local author Thaddeus Robinson on October 13th at 5 pm, as well as our annual Friends of the Cobleigh Library Book Sale on October 16th and 17th. Lastly, Techstorm 2523 (the Robotics/STEM team at Saint Johnsbury Academy) will host an event for kids on November 5th at 5 pm, and then we have one more author event on December 3rd for Jodi Lew-Smith.
- **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 Scrabble group and Chess Club on Thursday evenings, as well as Knitting Club on Saturdays. The “My Favorite Book” program for families also continues to take place every second Saturday of the month, while the Cozy Cat Book Club for kids (ages 8-12 years old) is scheduled for the last Thursday of every month. Furthermore, we offer several recurring programs for adults, including Chair Yoga (first Friday of the month), a Romance Book Club (every other month on the second Tuesday), and a Spanish Conversation Club (the last Tuesday of the month).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaitlin Wood
Library Director
Cobleigh Public Library