



Whitingham Free Public Library
P.O. Box 500
Jacksonville, VT 05342

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2024

5:46pm Meeting called to order.

In attendance Tanya Bernard, Mark Halverson, Shandell Soumar, Wendy Sergeant,
Judith Bernard, Kristine Sweeter- Director

Public comments: None.

Lyons presented a check to the Librarian and Board of Trustees. Picture was taken.

Wendy made a motion to approve November 2024 Minutes with correction of duplicate name in attendance. Shandell seconded, all approved.

Tanya made a motion to approve Town Report 2024: Whitingham Free Public Library Highlights. Shandell seconded, all approved.

Discussions:

Saturday, December 14th – Kids Shopping Bazaar will be from 10am-4pm in the Community Center. Need help to set-up on Friday, and during the event.

Planning for Honoring the library employees of 15 year and 20-year anniversaries (Lois, Kristine, respectively) in 2025.

The Trustees were looking at significant dates such as National Library Week of April 6, and National Librarian Day April 16.

Director's Report – See attached report.

Shandell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6pm, Mark seconded, all approved.

Next Meeting is January 8, 2024

(Since Library Trustees' meetings are the first Wednesday of the month and will be closed New Year's Day January 1st.)

Director's Report
Kristine Sweeter
December 4, 2024

❖ **Programming:**

Story Hour –Jan 4, 2025 – (1st Saturday of the month thru June)
Adult Craft Group – 3rd Thursday 10:30 am
Yoga Mondays 6 pm
Homeschool Group – 2024-2025 school year - Mondays; 9-11 am,
Book Group 2nd Wednesday 5 pm

❖ **Specials:**

Sat. Dec. 14th Kids Shopping Bazaar *NEED VOLUNTEERS
-Set up / During/ Clean-up / Gingerbread Man /
**Looking for donations of new or gently used items for men, woman, and children for gift shopping

Completed:

Wed. Nov 20th - 2024 VT Reads – **Gather** by Kenneth Cadow – 10 people attended
Mon. Nov. 25th – Movie & Pizza / Inside Out 2 – 27 kids 12 adults

❖ **Grants:** TBD

❖ **Finances:** 2024-2025

Annual Appeal – \$9,440
Yoga - \$830
Account balance: M&T Bank Money Mkt Account \$57,436
11/6 \$1,620
11/7 \$1,330
11/8 \$1,335
12/4 \$4,005

❖ **Other**

Town Report ending June 30, 2024 – attached
VT 2024-2034 Fiber Grant Report – completed/submitted 11-30-24
VT Annual State Report – completed/submitted 12-2-24
-Annual Staff reviews - completed

❖ **Staff**

Kristine off – Dec 23rd, Jan. 2nd
Lois – Dec. 19, 28, 30th
Lisa – covering Dec.28, off Dec. 30th

Whitingham Free Public Library



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Our Mission

The mission of the Whitingham Free Public Library is to promote the benefits of life-long learning and to expand the horizons of the community by filling its educational, recreational, and technological needs.

Whitingham Free Public Library Awarded \$17,000 VT Fiber Connect Transition Grant

2024—2034 Fiber Connect Transition Grant

In April 2024 the Whitingham Library was awarded \$17,000 through the Vermont Department of Libraries Fiber Connect Transition Grant. This is a 10 year grant which the library can use funds to upgrade internet equipment and pay for internet fees.

2024 Summer Camp: Adventure Begins At Your Library Ages 4 3/4 - 9 yrs.

The Library partners with Wings Programs to provide a FREE Summer Camp in June, after TVES closes for summer break. This is a time when there is little to no camp options for families with children entering kindergarten in the fall. Our 1/2 day camp includes free lunch through the FDA Summer Food Program. Our play-based program, *a research-based teaching method that uses play to help children develop skills and learn about the world around them*, offers opportunities to explore, learn, play, form friendships and lasting memories. This year, our 30 available slots were filled with a waiting list. STEAM activities included forest & stream exploration, fort and fairy house building, bubble & slime experiments, Lego creations, and arts & crafts. Vermont Museum of Natural History visited with Turtles to Toads and Mad Science took us “Up! Up! and Away!” Children enjoyed Yoga with Amy from Weeping Willow Yoga, read books to training Guide Dogs, visited the North River Bakery to decorate yummy cupcakes, and enjoyed a painting class led by Tanya Bernard. Join our team this summer, we are always looking for community volunteers to share their skills and talents. 2025 Summer Reading Theme: “Color Our World”

Mini-Grant Awarded to Whitingham Library Little Free Food Pantry

Through donations from the community and other organizations our little food pantry provides a variety of non-perishable food, personal hygiene, and pet items. Registration is not necessary and the pantry is open to all during library operating hours. In addition, our food pantry received a \$250 mini-grant from Price Chopper/Market 32, and a generous donation from Jim and Pat Kidney, and diapers from EES. Thank to all for your generous donations!



NEW Streaming Service NEW

We're thrilled to announce that the new streaming service is now available for Free with unlimited access to our library patrons!

Sign up with your library card at www.biblioplus.com to start streaming their selection of films and TV series today!

The biblio+ app is available for download on Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, Apple TV), Android phone and tablet, Amazon Fire TV, and Roku, or stream directly from www.biblioplus.com.

2023—2024 Statistics

- 6,230+ PATRON VISITS
- 6,730 ITEMS CIRCULATED
- 7,535 WIFI SESSIONS
- 1,409 REGISTERED ADULTS
- 242 REGISTERED CHILDREN
- 1,659 ADULTS AND CHILDREN ATTENDED OVER 110 PROGRAMS
- 11,300+ HOLDINGS

Library of Things

- MUSEUM PASSES
- SNOWSHOES
- 3 IN 1 OUTDOOR GAME (PICKLEBALL, BADMITTON, VOLLEYBALL)
- HOUSHOLD TOOLS
- PUZZLES
- GIANT GAMES
- ACTIVITY BACKPACKS
- LAPTOPS & PORTABLE PRINTER
- PORTABLE DVD PLAYER
- CD PLAYER

Thank you!

Thank you to the towns of Whitingham & Halifax for your continued support and patronage.

Kristine, Lois, Lisa and Trustees:

Tanya Bernard, Judy Bernard, Mark Halverson, M.A. Johnson, Wendy Sergeant, Shandell Soumar