

Northwood Libraries Trustees Meeting May 29, 2025
Minutes
Final

In attendance: Betty Smith, Chair; Pat Vaillancourt, Treasurer; David R Coursin, Secretary; Dana Hochgraf, Alternate; Pat Savage, Alternate, Donna Bunker, Library Director.

The meeting started at 9:10a

The yearly budgets proposed by the Town of Northwood were voted down in 2024, and now in 2025. The Director has been reviewing cuts needed to manage within that default budget while covering the inevitable increases in the yearly cost of basic necessities, like heat for the building.

At the 5/9/25 trustees meeting, the Director alerted us to the expectation of further cuts. A member of the selectboard is scheduled to attend our monthly meeting on 6/13/25 to present details of further cuts to be asked of the libraries. We needed this additional work session in order to understand the implications for our libraries.

We reviewed the Director's current budget preparations designed to meet the default budget. We were all involved in the subsequent discussion about the different consequences of those cuts alone and possible ways to mitigate them. We need to understand their implications in order to assess the potential impact of the request we expect to receive on 6/13/25.

The selectboard has surely had to balance a range of consequences across all the town departments. We need to understand the trade-offs it considered in determining its request for further cuts to our budget and will look to the selectboard member to educate us. With that information in hand we plan to review the implications of further cuts at a second work session shortly after the 6/13/25 trustees meeting so we can respond to the selectboard in a timely manner.

The meeting ended at 11am.

David R Coursin
Board Secretary