

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Library Meeting Room
Chaplin, Connecticut
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Board members present: Adele Swart, Jeanette Haines, Diane Sanchez, Diana Alvarez. Also present: Library Director Sandy Horning. Absent: Bill Jenkins, Alternate Joyce St. Lawrence.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 23, 2026 MINUTES:

Jeanette Haines motioned to approve February 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes with the following correction: Item #8b should read – “State wants to cut funding for Borrow It program”, *seconded by Diane Sanchez and carried with abstention by Diana Alvarez.*

4. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Received ACLB Newsletter.

7. REPORTS:

a. Director’s Report:

February - 390 people in-person (open 13 days – about 30 people per day), about 155 people attended in-person events – 83 users from Chaplin, 20 from other towns. 7 new Library cards issued. Circulation – 576 (357 items checked out – 86.6% Books/12% DVDs, 238 electronic checkouts).

- Ceiling stopped leaking for now.
- Quiet Corner Reads author announcement March 23rd - featured at Mansion at Bald Hill May 5th at 7pm (planning book chat).
- Passport to Libraries for month of April with pen giveaway.
- April Vacation Week April 11-17 (working on family events).
- Cookbook Club April 29th at 6pm with Middle Eastern foods (planned out to June to tie into 250th Anniversary with American foods).
- Next Book Chat March 27th at 3pm.
- Library closed April 3rd for Good Friday.
- Attending CLA Conference with Lisa (Angie unable to attend).

b. Board Chair’s Report: None

c. Board Members’ Report: None

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

a. Speaker Programs/events (250th Anniversary and others):

- Waking Up Your Garden by Will Hooper March 28th from 10am-12pm (Friends to provide refreshments and free seeds).
- Program on Cupboard by Andy Belisle May 20th at 6pm (tentative).
- Poetry Open Mic April 24th from 6-7:30pm at the library.

Upcoming programs – Sharon Wapen on Community Conversation about Death (asked to leave flyer), Lyme Disease by Pegi Dietz Shea with new book of poetry on ticks (May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month), won bid for program by Arnie Pritchard who puts a human face on World War II (around Veterans’ Day). Brendan Kane offered assistance with dialogue for discussing Declaration of Independence.

250th Anniversary

Group created to get speakers, programs and bulletin board going (meeting Friday at 2pm – need ideas).

- BOS adopted proclamation (launching with Chaplin Cupboard program – all CT towns participating).
- Presented packet of materials for 250th to BOE (will followup with Principal) - will also present to Parish Hill.
- Organizing Putty Party to re-putty windows at old Museum to protect from the elements.
- Ideas include: Square Dancing on Chaplin Street (block off roads), Ice-Cream Social for town folks.

b. Friends of the Library update:

- Celebrated St. Patrick's Day with Goodbye Irene - 96 attended (Jeanette's soda bread very popular) – will invite back for next year. People commented about great community event (thanks to Friends for organizing).
- 250th AdHoc Committee - Diane working on Trivia Questions about Declaration of Independence for bulletin board on easel.
- Puzzle Teams April 11th at 10:30am (thanks to Pomfret Library for loaning 6 sets identical puzzles).
- Obtaining 501c3 moving slow (more business oriented) – have EIN, filed for federal non-profit status (still need to get incorporated).

Leslie Ricklin suggested museum passes for 250th Anniversary – Huntington Home in Scotland, John Trumbull House and War Office in Lebanon.

c. Update on Budget & Behavior Policy from the BOS:

Budget - BOF member asked about \$2,000 increase in Library budget (Town Administrator noted adding back what taken out last year). Bigger items: BOE, Parish Hill, switch using Windham Tax office to Mansfield, IT, Ambulance.

Behavior Policy – Policy presented to BOS for approval (Library Board can approve policies). Juan Roman offered to give instruction on conflict resolution to the staff.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: April 20, 2026

- Items from current agenda

10. ADJOURN:

Adele Swart motioned to adjourn (7:31 PM), seconded by Diane Sanchez and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Recording Clerk Kathleen Scott*