**Bentley Memorial Library Board**
**Regular Meeting**
**Tuesday, November 10th, 2026**
**206 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT**

**1. Call to Order:**
Ms. Holliman opened the regular meeting at 4:00PM**.**

**2. Attendance:**
Present at the regular meeting were Board Chair, Rebecca Holliman, Library Director, Liz Thornton, Board Secretary, Kelly Goldsnider, Board Clerk, Camden Soucy, and board members Larrissa Webb-Oegema, and Brook Nowak. Absent from the meeting was board member, Claire Fazzina.

Present at the meeting were guests, Alan Wiedie and Basia Caya.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held September 15th, 2026: A motion was made by Ms. Goldsnider, and seconded by Ms. Holliman to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Corrections to September 15th, 2026 minutes:

- The 4th and 5th graders will be visiting the library on Friday, September 18th, for their own unveiling of the new display case, with a walk to Heritage farm and a re-enactment to follow. The town historian, John Toomey, will be present for the events.
- The "Pajama Story Time" was a lot of fun and had a great turnout.

**4. Correspondence:** None

**5. Director's Report**:

- Ms. Thornton shared that the unveiling reception for the Heritage Farm display case for Bentley Memorial Library was a success. Town historian John Toomey was present, and the events were enjoyed by both the adults and children who attended.
- Ms. Thornton reported that The Laptop ConneCT Program provided Bentley Memorial Library with 18 brand-new Dell Laptops to use for library services and to be distributed to Bolton Residents who have a library card and qualify for eligibility to receive a laptop. Carrie Concatelli at the town Social Services is assisting the library with the distribution of laptops to residents who are eligible to receive one. Residents eligible to receive laptops, will come into the library for training on laptop use, and will be able to take the laptop home. They will check out the laptop for a period of 5 years, until the program has ended, and will be able to keep the laptop thereafter.
- The library will keep 2-3 laptops granted from the program for use at the library.
- Ms. Thornton was pleased to share that the Kid Governor display in which 5th graders around the state share their goals and compete to become kid governor for the year, was enjoyed by all.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the adult programs being offered at the library have had great attendance.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the children's story time and the Thursday morning playgroups have had a declining attendance.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the story time will be changed to a start time of 10:15am with hopes

that the time change will work for more families in town and help with overall turnout.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the library has been registered for the Bolton Congregational Festival of Trees, taking place on December 4th and 5th. The library board will be decorating the Library's tree on Monday, November 30th, and installing the tree on Wednesday, December 2nd.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the Story time at Bolton lake, in partnership with the recreation department included a bonfire and smores and was a fun event with a good turnout.
- Ms. Thornton shared that the Girlscouts currently have a pumpkin display for cancer awareness.

**6. Review of Monthly Statistical Report**
- September and October Statistical Reports were distributed and reviewed.

**7. Review of Library Budget**
- Library Budget Summary for Fiscal year 2026-2027 was distributed and reviewed.

**8. New Business:**
- Ms. Thornton distributed and reviewed a new report of items marked missing or lost for 2026.
- The rate to be a member of Bibliomation has increased by roughly $2,000.
- Bibliomation is removing digital content from their catalog.
- Bibliomation has made it possible to pay for missing or lost materials by credit card. The money is returned to the library from Bibliomation , as the library does not currently accept card payments for missing or lost materials.

- Ms. Thornton has reported the need for expansion in the library- sharing that not only is space limited; but that the ability to host and run programs for the community is dependent on the limited amount of space that the current building has to offer.
- Board Meeting guest, Alan Wiedie, Architect of Bentley Memorial Library building, has shared his intention of making a monetary contribution to an expansion project for Bentley Memorial Library.
- Mr. Wiedie shared two conceptual building plans that he had drafted in 2013, which had failed at referendum that year.
- Mr. Wiedie's building plans reflect an approximate 2,400 square foot addition to the left side of Bentley Memorial Library. The addition would include a large event space for programming and other community use, as well as additional library storage and a kitchenette, with possibility for additional bathrooms as well.This addition would fit approximately 90 people at a time.
- Mr. Wiedie reported that he has been in contact with, and has provided his two conceptual building floorplans to two contractors in Manchester. He is waiting to hear back from the contractors to learn about the cost to build such an addition to the library.
- Mr. Wiedie has also been in contact with Stephanie Smigala, Interim Chief Financial Officer for Bolton to loop in the Bolton Town Attorney regarding the possibility of this library expansion and his monetary contribution to it..
- Ms. Thornton reported that in the interim, she has requested a half- million dollar placeholder into the capital plan wishlist for expansion to the library for a program room addition.

**19. Adjournment:**
A motion was made by Ms. Goldsnider, and seconded by Ms. Nowak to adjourned the meeting at 5:24 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is January 12th, 2027 at 4:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Camden Soucy

Bentley Memorial Library Board Clerk

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.