

**Bentley Memorial Library Board
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 15th, 2026
206 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT**

1. Call to Order:

Ms. Holliman opened the regular meeting at 4:02PM.

2. Attendance:

Present at the regular meeting were Board Members, Claire Fazzina, Board Treasurer, Dot Neil, Board Secretary, Kelly Goldsnider, Board Clerk, Camden Soucy, Board Chair, Rebecca Holliman, Library Director, Liz Thornton. Absent from the meeting was Brook Nowak and Larrissa Webb.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held July 14th, 2026: A motion was made by Ms. Neil, and seconded by Ms. Fazzina to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Corrections to July 14th, 2026 minutes:

- The "Rocks and Minerals" program hosted by Louis Fazzina was excellent. Ms. Thornton reported that it was hands-on, and every attendee left with a mineral sample.
- The "Simply Soil" program, hosted by Jean Laughman, had a great turnout.

4. Correspondence: The library board received a card from Ms. Loni Hryn thanking Liz Thornton and Library board members for a nice send-off at the prior board meeting.

5. Director's Report:

- Ms. Thornton shared that Heritage farm has built a display case for Bentley Memorial Library to display artifacts found during an excavation on the farm in 2023. The display has been installed at the library and includes 12 artifacts- buttons, coins, musket balls, fragments of wagons, and kettles. Along with one "permanent" main information panel, and several other panels about the artifacts on display which will be rotated regularly.
- Ms. Thornton reported that there will be an unveiling reception for the new display case on Thursday, September 17th at 6:30pm.
- 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, will be present for the events.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the library has been registered for the Bolton Congregational Festival of Trees, taking place on December 4th and 5th.
- Ms. Thornton was pleased to share that the library is participating in the Kid Governor display in which 5th graders around the state share their goals and compete to become kid governor for the year. The competitors' missions will be on display at BML for two weeks.
- Ms. Thornton reported that Mary, the new circulation desk clerk is fantastic in her new role. She jumped right in and learned the system quickly.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the alarm system has failed and is currently not working; however, the company is coming to fix it on Wednesday, September 16th.
- The library was successful in collecting multiple bins worth of food donations for the Social Services pantry in town.
- The boy scouts came for a scavenger hunt and teddy bear sleepover which was fun for all who

participated.

- Jennifer Trueman, author of *Fuzzy Friend Plays Pretend*, visited the library and read her book. Ms. Trueman was engaging, and the event had a great turnout.
- Therapy dog, "Reese" has been visiting the library regularly and providing support when needed. Patrons enjoy seeing him around.
- Library staff teamed up with the recreation department to co-host a movie night at Bolton Center School. Sam read the story to the attendees, and then the recreation department played the movie version of it.
- Ms. Thornton reported that throughout the summer, there were scavenger hunts and story walks every week.
- Ms. Thornton reported that the passport program to honor the 250th was a huge success amongst patrons.
- The next Friends of the Library meeting will be held on October 29th from 5:00pm-6:00pm.
- Ms. Thornton shared that the library substitutes have been excellent in helping during library staff absences.

6. Review of Monthly Statistical Report

- July and August 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 reported that downloadables continue to be popular amongst patrons; however, library staff decided to reduce the limit of downloads from 6 to 4 per library card holder starting September 1st, 2026, as a way to reduce spending.
- Ms. Thornton was in contact with Hoopla about the change in downloadables, and reported that they were helpful with the switch and reassured that the reduction is reasonable.
- 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. The program will run for 5 years.
- Ms. Thornton has contacted Carrie Concatelli at the town Social Services to aid in the distribution of laptops to residents who are eligible to receive one. Carrie has created a form for residents to fill out to determine their eligibility.
- Ms. Thornton shared that new library pages, Julia and Lucy, are excited to join the team and all library staff are participating in training them.
- Updated Bibliomation Information sheets and Benefit sheets were distributed and reviewed.
- Ms. Dot Neil gave notice of her resignation to the library board. We deeply appreciate Ms. Neils's many years of service to the library board!

19. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Goldsnider, and seconded by Ms. Neil to adjourned the meeting at 5:08 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is November 10th, 2026 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.