

Trustee Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

The April 2026 meeting of the Leominster Public Library Board of Trustees was held on April 13, 2026 in the Large Historical Conference Room at the Leominster Public Library.

In attendance were Trustees Mark Bodanza, Sue Chalifoux Zephir, Susan Shelton, and Joanne D’Onfro. Trustees Jim Despo and Lawrence Nfor were absent. At the meeting as well were Library Director Alexander Lent, Assistant Director, Nicole Butler, and Leominster Resident Dominic Ciccone. Chair Bodanza called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Ciccone addressed the Board at the open forum, indicating his excitement about the Library of Things and the 3D printer, and requested that the Library install water bottle fillers and conduct technology outreach at the Senior Center. Library Director Lent let Mr. Ciccone know that water bottle fillers are in the library’s capital plan and that the Adult Services Department is working with the Senior Center to offer technology support at the Senior Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 2026 meeting were approved unanimously with one edit (Zephir/Shelton).

LIBRARY REPORT

Library Director Lent provided updates on a previously reported leak, which turned out to be related to the building envelope and not the new building roof, and on the new shelving in the Children’s Room office, and explained an energy billing confusion that the library was working with the Comptroller’s Office to understand.

OLD BUSINESS

Staffing Updates – Library Director Lent requested approval to provide a raise to Library Assistant Arabella DeJesus for completing her service desk training. This was approved unanimously (Zephir/D’Onfro). Library Director Lent outlined the part-time wage schedule, and asked the Board for guidance on providing a Cost of Living Adjustment to all part-time staff. The Board instructed the Director to communicate with the Comptroller to see if a raise was possible, and if so, how to go about it.

Adult Programming – Following the March 2026 discussion of adult programming, where the Board indicated a desire to see an increase in lecture, concert, and series programming for an adult audience, and specifically a series of programming in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States, Library Director Lent provided an update on the planning of these events.

NEW BUSINESS

LaPlante Donation – Library Director Lent informed the Board that he had learned through a quarterly Trust fund report that David LaPlante, Treasurer Emeritus for the City of Leominster, had set up a Trust fund for the library in honor of his late wife. Typically, Trust funds are established by the Board from the beginning, and Lent sought guidance from the Board on how to proceed with this different Trust initiation. The Board instructed the Director to proceed under the assumption that the Board would accept the Trust and to communicate with Mr. LaPlante and ask for Trust documentation paperwork.

Computer Chair – Director Lent reports that the Library’s public computer chairs are worn and need servicing, and providing information about costs to reupholster and repair the chairs versus replacing the chairs with unupholstered chairs, asking for guidance on how the Board would like to proceed. The Board advised Director Lent to proceed with reupholstering a section of the existing chairs and to purchase a few unupholstered chairs for comparison purposes.

Marketing – Following the March 2026 meeting, where the Board indicated a desire to see increased marketing of library offerings, Library Director Lent reported on a software service that will help facilitate outreach to non-users, initial research into text-based marketing services to supplement the library’s existing email marketing, first steps taken into getting a permanent library sign on the West Street side of the building, and work being done to establish a social media internship program with a local university.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm (Zephir/D’Onfro).

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexander Lent, Library Director