

Minutes of the Inlet Public Library Board Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Members present: Jean Bird, Jennifer Blakeman, Katie Chambers, Kim Egenhofer, Lynn Keough, JoAnn Meneilly, Mary Lou Reich, Jeanne Wilson, Library Director Joanne Kelly

Excused: Sue Beck, Becky Hasemeier

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by President Kim Egenhofer
2. Adoption of Agenda: The previously distributed agenda was approved on a motion by JoAnn, seconded by Katie.
3. Approval of March Meeting Minutes: There was one correction to the previously distributed minutes: Mary Lou Reich was not in attendance at the meeting. The amended minutes were approved on a motion by Katie, seconded by Kim.
4. Approval of Treasurer's Report: (copies attached)

For March: Disbursements were \$262.86. Receipts were \$236.25. The checking account balance as of March 31, 2026, was \$25,403.41. The Certificate of Deposit balance was \$25,981.22. The total of all funds as of March 31, 2026, was \$51,384.63.

The March report was approved on a motion by Jean, seconded by Jennifer.

For April: Disbursements were \$715.07. Receipts were \$15,129.25, which included a \$10,000 donation from Tina Bradt, and a \$5,000 grant award from the Adirondack Community Foundation Generous Act Grant funded in partnership with the Drucker-Harris Legacy Fund. The grant award is for architectural design to improve utilization and energy efficiency of interior and exterior spaces. The checking account balance as of April 30, 2026, was \$39,817.59. The Certificate of Deposit balance was \$25,981.22. The total of all funds as of April 30, 2026, was \$65,798.81.

The April report was approved on a motion by Jean, seconded by Mary Lou.

5. Library Director's Report: Joanne distributed her report (copy attached) and reviewed each item.

After discussion, the decision was made for the library to remain open for regular hours on July 4th (10:00 am to 1:00 pm).

In regards to a book written by Heather Levi, the Board declined the offer to sell the book, as the library is not in the business of selling books. The Board also declined the offer to host a book signing for the book, offering instead to host a future book signing event for all local authors.

In regards to Tim Brownsell's request to sponsor a "meet the candidate" event at the library, the Board declined the request as it would give the appearance of endorsing a given candidate, which the library does not do.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Inlet Area Community Task Force: Jennifer reported that the needlepoint class has ended, the gardens are ready for planting, and the farm stand will open on May 26. Jennifer also reported that the Task Force continues to explore programs related to food insecurity.
- b. Grants Update: As noted above, Jennifer reported that the library received a \$5,000 grant from Adirondack Community Foundation. Jennifer suggested that the library's grant-funded projects be featured on the website. Jeanne noted that she is exploring a re-vamp of the library's website, and featuring these projects would be a good addition.
- c. Strategic Planning: Jeanne distributed an updated report on the project status (copy attached).
- d. Decoration: The collection of decorations in the closet needs to be sorted and cleaned out.
- e. SALS Annual Report: Katie reported that the annual report was submitted on April 7 and has been accepted.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Resignation of Mary Jane Lasher/New Board Member: Mary Jane has moved out of the area and has submitted her letter of resignation from the Board. There was discussion of a potential new Board member. It was discussed that Board members should bring suggestions for potential new members to the Board for discussion before reaching out to any candidates. The favored suggestion was Karen Gorea, who is an Inlet resident, is a library patron and active in the monthly library book group. Joanne, Jeanne and Mary Lou were asked to discuss a potential appointment with Karen at book group. Follow up: As directed, Joanne, Jeanne and Mary Lou discussed a Board appointment with Karen at book group. She is evaluating the time commitment and plans to attend the June Board meeting as an observer.
- b. Window Washing: Kim reported that DAX Window Washing had reached out to her regarding annual window cleaning. The Board was in favor of scheduling the cleaning.
- c. Annual Library Dinner: After discussion, a date of September 23 at 5:00 pm was set for the annual Board dinner at Jean's home. The menu will be discussed at the August meeting.
- d. New Minimum Standards: Katie reported that SALS has indicated there are new minimum standards, which will necessitate a review of the library's existing policies to see if new policies or updates of existing policies are required. SALS is offering on-line training sessions for the new minimum standards. The updates will need to be completed by the end of the year. It was decided to put this project on hold until the fall, and to set up a committee at that time to review the new standards and our existing policies.
- e. 250th Celebration Committee: In celebration of our country's 250th birthday, the Town of Inlet is holding a contest to encourage businesses to decorate for the festivities. Decorations would need to be installed by June 30. Joanne requested a committee to assist with the planning for decorating the library. Lynn, Mary Lou and JoAnn volunteered to help

Joanne on the committee. JoAnn made a motion to allocate a budget of \$250 for decorations. The motion was seconded by Kim and approved.

- f. Planning Discussion on Library Improvements: As a follow-up to Jeanne Whyte's presentation at the March meeting, the Board had a discussion on how to move forward with planning for future improvements to the library. It was agreed that the first step should be finishing the strategic planning process, as that will help define a wish list of needed improvements. The goal is to finish the strategic plan by the end of summer and then conduct a wish list discussion at the September meeting. Following that, the Board will meet again with Jeanne Whyte at the October meeting. Katie advised that the process for applying for a NYS Construction Grant begins in May 2027, and that grants funds would not be available until August of 2028. Jennifer volunteered to reach out to Jeanne Whyte and let her know that we would schedule time to meet with her again at the October meeting. JoAnn offered to contact the Old Forge Library to get feedback on working with Jeanne Whyte.

Kim reported that she had contacted Taylor Kane of Kane Landscaping regarding improvements to the courtyard. Taylor met with Kim to look at the courtyard and said he could develop a plan for improvements for a cost of \$500. He estimated that the work would take approximately two weeks to complete once a plan was finalized. After discussion, it was decided that improvements to the interior of the library should be completed prior to improvements to the courtyard. Kim will get back to Taylor and advise that this project will be put on hold.

OTHER:

Joanne reported that Mary Jane Lasher called prior to the meeting to report that she is settling in at their new home, and that they are very active and happy. Kim has asked Mary Jane to select a title of a book for the library to purchase in her honor.

Joanne displayed an award that was presented to the library at the annual SALS dinner. Each library in attendance received an award.

Joanne advised that SALS has initiated a new policy that allows only residents in the SALS region to access Libby for e-books. Patrons who live outside the SALS region (for instance, patrons from Eagle Bay, Big Moose or Old Forge) will now need to access Overdrive from their home library region. This may impact future numbers reported for Overdrive usage.

Next Meeting will be Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 2:00 pm at the library (Note revised meeting date!)

Meeting adjourned at 3:53 pm on a motion by Jennifer, seconded by Mary Lou.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Wilson, Secretary