

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting  
May 18, 2026

Present: Nicole Agius, Secretary; Cathy Brown; Brian Egge; John Greenleaf; Joseph Loonan; Tom Main; Gary Rapp, Chair; Michael Scheer; Meg Soffen; Katie Spreng; Kim Welton, Vice-Chair

Others present: Brenda McKinley, Library Director; Andy Forsyth, Assistant Library Director; Jane Lindenburg, Development Director; Laura Zolotorofe; Executive Assistant

Absent: Paul Hastings; Joseph Loonan; Anne Marie Squeo

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair, Gary Rapp.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Library Board meeting minutes as written.**

**Chair's Announcements**

Chair Gary Rapp updated the Board on the Request for Reconsideration received by the Library. Because the individual who initiated the request asked to remain anonymous should the appeal go beyond the Ridgefield Library Board, Gary filed a redacted copy to the CT State Library, CT Library Association, CT Library Consortium and Association of CT Library Boards. This filing is required by State Statute. Gary is waiting to hear back from the state organizations. Gary presented the existing Strategic Plan and the revised one that was worked on by the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion followed.

**Gary Rapp called a motion at 7:30 pm to enter Executive Session to discuss the new Board Members slate, allowing staff and members of the Friends to remain. Motion seconded and approved.**

**Executive Session ended at 7:33pm.**

**Kim Welton called for a motion to accept Nancy Barlow, Daniel Rauchwerk, Monica Woo and Leah Wendel as upcoming Board Members for FY 27. Motion seconded and approved.**

**Executive Committee**

The proposed slate for the FY 27 Executive Board is as follows:

Gary Rapp, Chair

Kim Welton, Vice-Chair

Paul Hastings, Treasurer

Katie Spreng, Secretary

The Board will be asked to vote on this in June.

Kim Welton presented information to the Board about the Library's magazine collection.

**Director's Report**

Library Director Brenda McKinley's report was sent in the Board Packet. On 6/6 there will be a birthday celebration in Children's for Maurice Sendak. Brenda provided an update on the Sendak Foundation statue project.

**Friends of the Ridgefield Library**

Tom Madden reported on the May Secret Stacks sale. The Friends Annual meeting will be on 6/1 from 3 – 5pm. The Friends will vote for their Board. Rudy Marconi will attend and present the Friends with a proclamation in recognition of the Friends 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Community Engagement** – *Technology Committee*- Brian Egge updated the Board on topics discussed in the technology meeting. They are reviewing tablets used in Children’s, AI tools for patrons, digital equity and website accessibility. Michael Scheer will facilitate a presentation on cybersecurity and ransomware at the next Technology Committee meeting.

**Financial & Operational Sustainability** – *Financial -Finance Committee* – The Finance Committee did not meet in May. All FY27 Capital requests and the Town budget passed. John Greenleaf gave an update on the Bar Harbor and UBS accounts.

*Development* – there is a plan to have a Guest Bartender night will be on 6/25 at the Lantern, more information to follow. The Donor Appreciate Brunch is scheduled for 9/27. Jane Lindenburg asked Board members attending the Gala to engage with donors. Sponsorship for the Gala has been good.

**Cultivate Motivated Staff**

Brenda McKinley announced that Carolyn Gillan has stepped into her role as Head of Circulation. Kate Hellman, the Adult Services Department Head, started last week. Second round interviews for the Assistant Library Director are in progress.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2026 @ 7:00 pm.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Zolotorofe  
Executive Assistant