



## **Meeting Minutes of the Ellsworth Public Library Board of Trustees November 19, 2025**

**Attending:** Craig MacDonald (chair), Rain Perez, Judi Lyles, Sarah Lesko, Kathleen Cravens, Vivek Philip, Councilor Smith

The meeting was called to order by Craig MacDonald at 6:30 pm. A short discussion ensued regarding recruiting two new members to join our board following the June election. We will need to pay the City to be on the ballot. We will also need to use the next several months working on educational talking points regarding the change in number of library board members. We will also reach out to the Ellsworth American for a piece regarding this change.

**Public Comment:** None

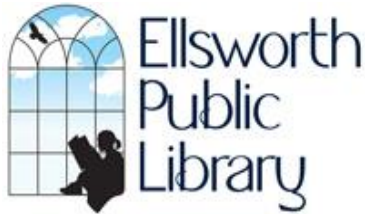
### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Friends of the Library Report not available at time of meeting  
Director's report  
Building and Grounds  
Secretary Report Minutes of October 22 meeting  
Financial Report and Planning

A motion was made by Vivek and seconded by Kathleen to approve the consent agenda.

### **Old Business**

- Berit reviewed the feedback she has collected from her online and in person voting among library patrons. The results are as follows: 71.6% voted for the design featuring the building and the tree. There was some feedback regarding the image of the river also being included but overall people found the river confusing or felt it didn't add to the image. The staff also choose this image. The board members tonight echoed this majority and also discussed the inclusion /exclusion of the river, and asked for a sketch that would include the tree to the right of the Tisdale House. As a board we liked the blue/green color way but Berit assured us colors, and fonts are still under review. We also noted that the Friends will continue with the logo featuring our window.
- Sarah reported that we are switching from Thayer to Mechanical Systems for maintenance. This is the agency the City uses so going forth they will separate our expenses out from the other departments. In light of this we have decided not to spend the \$4,000.00 for switches.
- Sarah also provided an architect update. Mike spent 2.5 hour reviewing some of his thoughts with Sarah. She then shared them with us. He has found that the back wall facing the river is not removable. He has suggested that we take out the Palladium window on the river side and create study carrels and add a large window to the teen area. We all discussed these options and are very wedded to keeping our windows. We also decided that the cost of removing the upstairs fireplace does not gain us any additional space and may indeed be fought with problems if removed. Some thoughts are as follows: we can downsize the periodicals a little, all our computers need to be replaced, and the Riverview room ceiling can be raised and perhaps accommodate the



- beautiful shelves we have in storage and also enclose hangers in the molding for art installations.
- Regarding the Tisdale House we do not need to count the entrance there as a fire exit which allows us to move the service desk and youth services to that area. The door will remain operational in times of emergency.
- In conclusion the mechanical and electrical engineers are coming on Friday the 21st and Mike will update us following this inspection. We have asked Sarah to inquire about the cost of a window quilt for energy efficiency and also to address lowering the chandelier for ease of replacing light bulbs.

#### **New Business:**

- We discussed in length the proposal for Gary Friemen proposed for fundraising. Many questions were asked and replied to, concerns were addressed and in the end the vote was as follows: 4 Board members in favor and one opposed. Sarah will inform them and ask them to delay starting to the New Year. The contract is for 15 weeks and will cost \$30,000. We will use the Jimmy Kemp endowment to cover the cost. message to the community at large is that the biggest cost of the renovation is to address the safety and restoring the building.
- Slate of Officers proposed: President ; CO CHAIRS Craig Macdonald. Rain Perez Secretary: Kathleen Cravens Treasurer: Vivek Philips Vote results were unanimous as proposed. Slate continues to November 2026
- Annual appeal is awaiting proofreading, and we will need to redo thank you notes . Please submit your thoughts regarding the thank you to sarah in the next couple of days.
- Friends of the library contribute approximately 10,000 dollars per year to underwrite our programs and much more. Upcoming expenses for 2026 include replacing the computers, covering the state library fees and addressing needs of Genealogy. We did discuss whether or not we can ask the City to cover some of these operating expenses.
- Upcoming events: Saturday the 22nd there is an Artist reception from 4:30-6:00P.M. Friends are assisting with refreshments.

Executive session per MRSA Title 1, Chapter13,Sec406,Paragraph 6A to discuss employment matters

Entered 7:52 P.M. exit 8:00 P.M.

Decisions, Action Items and Next Steps

Adjournment 8:30 pm

Next meeting is December 17, 2025

Respectively submitted,  
Kathleen Cravens, Secretary