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TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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MEETING MINUTES NORTH BRANFORD LIBRARY BOARD Atwater Memorial Library Wednesday, August 13, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Chair Frandsen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Salute to the Flag

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Frandsen, Member Budney, Member Fallon

Also Present: Library Director Davis and Assistant Library Director Lemire

Absent: Vice Chair Anderson and Member Macmillen

3. Approval of minutes:

a. Approval of June 11, 2025 minutes

Motion: Member Budney made a motion to approve the minutes from June 11, 2025: seconded by Member Fallon

Abstain: None

Discussion: None

With all in favor, motion passed

4. Library Board Report: Nothing

5. Library Director's Report:

Carson Doyle officially leaving at the end of September; unable to continue weekend shifts due to schedule conflict. Part-time position now open; applications being accepted, with interviews planned for late August.

Adult Summer Reading:

Bingo raffle tickets due by **Friday**. Prizes include a \$100 Amazon gift card and two \$100 gift cards to **Aqua**, donated by the restaurant.

Children's Summer Reading:

Ended July 31, 2025 and raffle prize winners were drawn on Aug. 1st. 411 participants; up from last year. Most popular prize: Laser Tag Party donated by Sportsplex..

Book Sale will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at Atwater Library. Historical Society Tag Sale is the same day.

Little Red Schoolhouse Reception: Will be held on September 27, 2025 to unveil the restoration. The reception will be held at Smith Library.

Community Day of Connection: BHcare, in partnership with Common Grounds – connecting our town is hosting a free event. The event will be held on September 13, 2025. The Library will participate with an information booth. This will be a family-friendly event with games and crafts for kids to enjoy.

- **Adult Program:**

Extend Your Growing Season: Mastering Fall, Winter and Spring Crops was held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at the Atwater Library from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Taught by Mark Gostkiewicz from Tri Gable Lea

Book Bedazzling: We be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Smith Library from 6:30-8:00p.m. and Thursday, August 21, 2025 at the Atwater Library from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Book-themed diamond painting for teens and adults.

3-part series of programs presented by Personal Genetics Education & Dialogue

A new generation of genetic tools has opened a pathway to improving the world around us. **Ancestry and Identity** (Series Part 1 of 3) September 11, 2025 at the Smith Library 6:00–8:00 p.m. Please join us as we explore the intersection of science, innovation, and society with our *Introduction to DNA Ancestry Testing* program! This program explores genetic testing for ancestry and family history purposes. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the questions, challenges, and benefits of bringing genetic technologies into their lives.

DNA, Crime, and Law Enforcement (Part 2 of 3) September 17, 2025 at the Atwater Library 6:00–8:00 p.m. Please join us for a fascinating evening of exploration in the use of DNA as a tool in law enforcement. How can we as a society use genetics to keep people safe, solve crimes, and, at the same time, develop policies that provide appropriate safeguards and privacy protections?

Engineering the World Around Us (Part 3 of 3) September 25, 2025 at the Smith Library 6:00–8:00 p.m. In this program, we focus on three potential uses of genetic engineering tools with the goal of reducing food toxicity, modifying disease-carrying insects to preserve an endangered species, and reviving an extinct animal - the woolly mammoth - to possibly aid in slowing permafrost thawing.

Librarians in Training Returns in September 24th for new participants (grades 2–5) One past participant will co-lead a session. Focus on teamwork and library skills. Graduation planned—date TBD.

Smith HVAC

Special PPBC meeting on 8/13 to discuss proposals received through RFP. General frustration with slow progress on HVAC and ongoing impact on staff and patrons. Staff praised for their continued dedication despite difficult working conditions.

6. Unfinished Business: Discussion and action

- a. Liability waivers and hold harmless agreements – No updates**
- b. Social Media Policy – No updates**

7. New Business: Discussion and action:

- a. Library Display Policy**
- b. Program Policy**
- c. Revisions to Collection Development and Maintenance Policy**
- d. Revisions to Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy**

In response to concerns with ongoing efforts to challenge and ban books in public and school libraries, the CT State Legislature approved SB1271 implementing new statutory requirements. This bill builds on the SB2 bill passed in 2023, providing more robust language which protects libraries from being compelled to take down materials because of the creators' "origin, background or viewpoints expressed." Instead, materials, displays and programs may only be removed "for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards" set forth in the policies libraries would create in accordance with the bill's provisions. Each library board must adopt and make publicly available in print and on the library's website: Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy, Library Display Policy. These requirements are essential for continued eligibility for State incentive grants to principal public libraries. New policies must be drafted and submitted for approval by the State Library by November 1, 2025.

Failure to adopt and maintain these policies will render a library ineligible for state grant funding (Sec. 347), Sec. 11-24b. State grants to principal public libraries; incentive grants.

Minutes taken by:

Gina A. Cox, Board Clerk