



WALKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Walker Memorial Library
800 Main Street
Westbrook, Maine 04092
Phone: 207-854-0630
Fax: 207-854-0629

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 4, 2024
5:30 PM – Walker Memorial Library

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 05:28pm by Senior Librarian Luke Sorensen.

Library Advisory Committee Members present: Elizabeth Callaway, Lorraine Glidden, Evan Hevey, Luke Sorensen (Senior Librarian)

Library Advisory Committee Members absent: Nancy Milton Heath, Kerri Frazier (Trustee of the will of Joseph Walker), Fran Fritzche-Jensen (Trustee of the will of Joseph Walker), Marian Peterson (Trustee of the will of Joseph Walker), Rosemary Bebris (Library Director)

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Member Hevey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2024.

Seconded by Committee Member Callaway and approved unanimously.

3. Library Director's Report

The full text of the Library Director's Report is attached to these minutes.

4. Friends of the Walker Memorial Library Update

Lorraine Glidden provided an update on Friends of the Walker Memorial Library activities.

5. New Business

a. Collection and Programming Update

Senior Librarian Luke Sorensen provided an update on the library collection and an overview of WML's recent and upcoming programming and outreach efforts.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 05:39pm.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2024 at 5:30pm

Upcoming Meetings: December 3, 2024 at 5:30pm



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Director's Report June 4, 2024

FY25 Budget

The City of Westbrook's FY 2024-2025 annual budget was approved by City Council on May 20, 2024. Total funding for the library for FY25 is \$604,355.

MaineDOT/BCM Library E-Bike Loan Program

MaineDOT/BCM anticipates delivering the first e-bikes to WML and launching the pilot program before June 12th.

Van Delivery Interruption

At 4:53pm on June 3, 2024, libraries across the state were notified by Maine InfoNet (the entity which coordinates the statewide library systems) via email that interlibrary loan requesting of materials would be shut off effective Tuesday, June 4, 2024, due to a pending interruption in the statewide library delivery contracts. Currently, there is no ability for patrons or library staff to request items from other libraries. Details as to why can be found below in the message from Maine InfoNet. In the meantime, the following points are important for WML users to know...

- WML card holders will still be able to request and place holds on items owned by WML but will not be able to request materials from other libraries.
- Walk-in borrowing privileges with our Minerva partner libraries remain in effect. Anyone with a valid WML card may visit any of our partner libraries in the Minerva network and check out materials from their collections - a courtesy which we extend to their users as well. Please note - any library items borrowed from another library should be returned to that library as, with the delivery service suspended, we have no way to get items returned for you.
- This service interruption has NO impact on your ability to access our online services.
- WML staff are working with our local Minerva partners (Thomas Memorial Library,

Scarborough Public Library, Baxter Memorial Library, and Windham Public Library) to determine if some degree of delivery between our local consortium is possible. More information will be forthcoming as we work out the details.

Message from Maine InfoNet:

A message for your patrons explaining the current situation, please feel free to share:

Sharing between libraries is one of the best and most valuable services that libraries provide to their members.

The ability to smoothly deliver materials between libraries is what makes this work. The contract for the book delivery service is held by the Maine State Library and is subject to State Procurement Laws and procedures. This contract was required to go through a competitive bidding process (Request for Proposal, or RFP) this year since all contracts that use public funds have to ensure competitive bidding at the state level.

Contracting as a result of this RFP for book delivery is currently working its way through a legal appeals process. Because of this transition to a new vendor who won the competitive bid, and an appeal to overturn that decision by an unsuccessful bidder, there will be an interruption to book delivery between libraries at the end of the current contract which expires on June 30th.

We do not currently have firm dates for the length of this interruption, but we expect that there will be no delivery for at least six weeks this summer, starting on July 1.

In anticipation of this interruption, the Maine InfoNet Board and the Minerva Executive Board have made the difficult decision to turn off all requesting between libraries within the MaineCat environment, including Minerva, MILS and URSUS, as of June 4th.

Patrons will still be able to request and place holds on locally owned items, but will not be able to request materials from other libraries.

Turning off requesting between libraries will allow materials currently in transit to be

delivered and will reduce the flow of new material entering delivery. This will help get as many items back to their owning libraries as possible and will help ensure materials are not stranded in the delivery system.

We know that this is a challenging situation that we are all facing. We recognize and feel the same frustration with this situation that you all are feeling. Your local library provides many other valuable services to your community, and we encourage everyone to explore those many services.

If you would like more details regarding this, please visit the FAQ that further explains this situation:

Van Delivery FAQ (<https://mainemsl.libguides.com/c.php?g=1393867&p=10309221>)

James Jackson Sanborn
Executive Director
Maine InfoNet

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Bebris, Director