

**Wardsboro Public Library
Trustee Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
May 1,2025**

Meeting called to order: 5:08

Trustees in attendance: Donna Fernandes, Steve Herd, Sheri Lewis, Marty Loftus, Karina Martin, Patty Rappazzo

Members of the public: Anand Fedele, Karen Davis

Changes to the agenda: Changes in the statement for MILS

- **MERP grant:** Anand Fedele from the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) works with the MERP(Municipal energy resilience program) grant and gave an overview of the specific provisions of the grant. The grant was awarded to the town of Wardsboro (\$468,930.60) for upgrades to the library, town hall, town office, town garage and fire department for energy efficiency improvements.

Some of the main points addressed:

- The grant is administered by BGS (department of buildings and general services)
- Wardsboro Town Library upgrades include: internal insulation, wall foaming, vapor barrier in the basement, installation of an 8kW solar electric system, installation of a battery backup system with small electrical upgrades to accommodate
- All buildings must pursue high priority (energy conservation) improvements before pursuing other projects
- Projects need to be cross coordinated with other buildings
- The town select board is responsible for overseeing all buildings except the library

- WRC can serve as project managers and liaisons with a charge of 20% of the construction cost. WRC will put together a contract and present it to the select board
- Grant money is time sensitive. Must be used by 12/31/26
- EV charger can be put in at the library, but we need to file a Scope Amendment with BGS explaining the reasons for the change
- Before beginning projects we need to get the select board to sign off on Scope Amendments and Historical Review process
- Anand will be head of the steering committee and will advise

Patty R was tasked with drafting language to address cuts from IMLS to be put on the library website.

Patty R made a motion to post the following about IMLS cuts to the library with a second from Marty L:

A message from the Wardsboro Public Library Board of Trustees:

Please help us protect the only source of federal funding for our nation's 125,000 libraries, the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For the Wardsboro Public Library, this grant money pays for the courier service which handles interlibrary loans, bringing other libraries' collections within our reach; the eBook program; the rights to screen movies for Movie Nights; and more. These are popular offerings among patrons of Wardsboro Public Library.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business: Karina M and Marty L are in the process of finding a new place to invest our current CDs

Marty L is contacting businesses to get estimates for replacing the roof.

Steve H made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned: 7:02

Submitted May 3, 2025 Donna Fernandes (pending)

