Library Board of Trustees' Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Town of Simsbury, CT
Special Meeting
June 24, 2026 – 2:00 P.M.
Simsbury Public Library – Weatogue Room
725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER – Madam Chair McGrath called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Present:
Library Board of Trustees Members
Present: Holly McGrath, Chair; Don Heymann, Co-Chair; and Anne Erickson.
Absent: Mary Glassman, Secretary

Simsbury Public Library Staff
Present: Lisa Miceli, Library Director; Stephanie Prato, Head of Children's Services.

Other Attendees
Present: President of the Friends of the Library, Greg Golinski, Davina Fogel, Jennifer Kirkland, Kathleen Miklus, Dan Sommer.
Absent: Jamie Sepa, Shawn McGlaughlin, Karen Cantelmo.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM OF TRUSTEES

Quorum of Trustees was established.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 27, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING

May 27, 2026—Special Meeting

Minutes to be amended to reflect that Dan Sommer was in attendance.

MOTION: Co-Chair Heymann made a motion, seconded by Ms. Erickson, to approve the Minutes of the May 27, 2026, Special Meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No Public Audience

V. STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026 REVIEW

The committee reviewed the current 2021–2026 Strategic Plan and discussed its continued relevance in light of changing community needs.

Members noted that the current vision and mission statements remain strongly aligned with community priorities, particularly regarding inclusivity, lifelong learning, and community building.

VI. DISCUSSION: SURVEY ANALYSIS

The committee reviewed the results of the community surveys and listening sessions represented by a slide show presentation created by Mr. and Mrs. Fogel using AI. The survey data was run through Claude for analysis. Mrs. Fogel revised the AI prompts numerous times to ensure accuracy of analysis. Mr. Fogel also did a meticulous independent human analysis of all of the surveys via spreadsheet to double check and confirm the findings.

- 447 total survey respondents
- 399 online responses (89%)
- 48 paper responses (11%)
- 7 listening sessions conducted

Members discussed that residents increasingly view the library as a central community gathering place rather than solely a repository for books and materials.

Committee members discussed financial limitations associated with digital collections and noted that demand often exceeds available resources due increasing costs.
Members discussed expanding communication efforts and increasing visibility of available services.
The library website was identified as the primary source of information for many residents, followed by email newsletters, online calendars, flyers, and social media.
The committee discussed exploring additional communication strategies, including mailing a printed newsletter to all residents at least once annually, subject to available funding.

VII. COMMITTEE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, NEXT STEPS

Members discussed priorities for developing the next strategic plan.
Action items include:

- Revise and update existing strategic goals.
- Develop new bullet points under Goals One through Three.
- Rework Goal Four to better reflect affordability, partnerships, and community support.
- Continue emphasizing in-person community connection opportunities.
- Explore communication strategies to increase awareness of library services.
- Collect and share additional language suggestions prior to the next meeting.

Members agreed to collaborate using a shared Google document

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Co-Chair Heymann made a motion, seconded by Ms. Erickson, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Madam Chair McGrath adjourned the meeting at 3:11 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cameron DiSanto
Administrative Secretary