

Forest Lodge Library – Town Report for Cable and Namakagon - November 2025

New Library Building Update...

The Interior Design Committee was able to meet with our representative from FEH Design, as well as with our Royal Construction Manager, and is ready to make some recommendations that will be brought forward to the FLL board at the November FLL Board meeting.

Shingles went up on the roof quickly. Electrical work was scheduled to start at the end of October. I am told that we are still on track for being on schedule with our building construction timeline.

Decision regarding Future Use of the Log Cabin Museum

A joint meeting of the Future Log Cabin Use Committee of the library and a group from the CNHM met on Friday, October 3rd. The library committee was hopeful to get an answer to the question of how much space, time and if the museum would entertain a longer lease than the current one-year lease at this meeting. The group from the museum presented a pitch deck, highlighting how the museum and the library could program together. Several community members attended in person and via zoom.

At the October FLL Board meeting, the board discussed and approved the decision to suspend negotiations with the Cable Natural History Museum regarding the future use of the log cabin for Forest Lodge Library purposes, use and lease.

This was voted on at the October 8th FLL Board meeting, and it was agreed that notification needed to get out to the proper entities in a timely and thoughtful manner.

A letter was drafted to the CNHM to state the library's position. It was agreed that they must receive this notification first. The FLL board then felt it was important to notify both of the town boards as soon as possible as well. We realize that this meant the addendum of adding the letter to the library report was an addition that came much later than we would have hoped to make. We appreciate both boards recognizing the time-sensitivity to the nature of the letter and wanting to deliver this information to our town boards before putting out a necessary press release.

Board member JoAnne Schultz and I were present at the Namakagon Town board meeting on October 14th and were able to read and discuss the letter during the library report agenda item. I attended the Town of Cable board meeting on October 15th. Cable Town chair Jamie Holly agreed to read the letter during his chairman's report. I was able to share some additional comments during the public open comment time of the town board meeting. Board member Janet Zeigler was also present at this town board meeting.

Our ask from both towns was simply to give the library support and understanding that while this was not the outcome that we had hoped for, it was the decision that needed to be made at this time and that it took a lot of time, careful thought and discussion to come to as a library board.

A press release has been sent out to local press, placed on our website, sent to the towns for them to place on their website should they choose to do so, and sent out to our patrons via our email list. It is in the November Newsletter email. If you did not receive this newsletter in an email and would like to view it, a link can be found on our website: forestlodgelibrary.org.

October Patron Visits: 795

Wisconsin Library Association Fall Conference:

I attended the WLA Fall Conference that was held Oct. 28th-31st in Middleton. While there, I was able to connect with other Northern Waters directors, our system director Katherine Elchert, other system directors and library directors from across the state, and library vendors, authors and professionals. I attended sessions that pertained to Wisconsin State Statutes, Chapter 43 specifically at times, as this is the section that specifically governs all WI public libraries. Sessions also covered library board composition and regulations. I was also able to attend sessions on library management, programming ideas, and ways to meet growing needs and changes of what a library offers.

It was a very worthwhile experience, and I appreciate the opportunity to attend. I am especially thankful to my staff and substitutes: Mark Parman, Rolfe Hanson, Angelina Castellano, Ron Skoglund, and Kristine Lendved. They play such an important role in helping me run the library and offer quality service to our communities not just when I'm away, but all of the time.

FLL Brd Mtg for November: Wednesday, November 12th at 5pm

KFE Brd Mtg for November: Wednesday, November 19th at 5 pm

November Library Programs...

Digital Navigator- Tech Support: Wednesdays, November 5th & 19th - 10 AM to 3 PM at the library.

- Support and assistance with devices from our digital navigator Eric Faber
- laptops and I-pads available for checkout.
 - Eric is able to check these out for you when he is at the library;
 - Director Westlund is also able to check these out for you as well.
 - These can be used by anyone – you do not need to have a library card.

Historic Fiction Book club – November 6th at 5 PM at the library

Book discussion: The Huntress by Kate Quinn

This is an open book club. Books are available for checkout at the library. Refreshments and light snacks will be available; you are welcome to bring your own as well.

Makerspace and Mocktails – November 13th from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the library

Craft: DIY Sweater Mittens

Mocktail: Fall Sunrise Mocktail

Cost is free, pre-registration is required – space is limited. Feel free to bring your own old sweater that you will cut for mittens, or the library will have some to choose from. Please bring cloth scissors as well, if you are able. Sign up by emailing Director Westlund or call the library.

New Library Building Walk Thru – November 18th from 2 PM OR 6 PM

Come and see the progress of the new library building. This is offered two times this day – 2 PM or 6 PM. Please understand that our new building is under construction. Due to this, there may be some bumpy terrain/spots outside of the building. If you are in need of any special accommodations, please contact Director Westlund.

Respectfully submitted by Director Amanda Westlund November 3, 2025