



Board of Library Trustees
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA
Minutes for Thursday, August 14, 2025

In Attendance

Rich Franas, Chair, Susan Veshi, Vice Chair, Jeanne Mikels, Secretary, Sue Buehler, Mary Chabot and Rena Klebart were present. Sondra Murphy, Library Director, and Evan Hale, Assistant Director and Board Clerk also present. Martina Koziak, treasurer, was absent.

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:59PM.

Minutes:

Mary moved to accept the minutes as written; Sue seconded. Rena and Susan abstained. The motion passed.

Suspension of Trustee Meeting for Executive Session

Mary moved to suspend the meeting to enter executive session; Jeanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Session entered at 5:03PM.

Resumption of Regular Meeting:

The Executive Session ended, and the regular meeting resumed at 5:20PM

Reports

Trustees Report from the Director

Sondra discussed the statistics that we have collected for the ARIS report which show a significant increase in Library usage over the previous fiscal year. She also noted the new office was fully installed and functional.

Warrants and Financial Reports

Rich explained the financial reports are not yet final due to the ongoing preparation of the Fiscal Year End reports from the Town. A representative from Bartholomew will be at the meeting in October to discuss the Library Trust Funds. Warrants were not reviewed as the Treasurer was unable to attend.

Friends Update

Evan and Rena provided updates on Bites, Books, and Blooms planning.

Unfinished Business

Staffing Update

Sondra mentioned the funding for the full-time staff member is questionable at this time. Also, Rebecca Ackerman, Children's Assistant, is leaving her position as Children's Assistant.

Office Update

Evan has moved into the new office.

Library Hours Discussion

Changes to the Library hours are on hold pending the possible addition of a full-time staff member.

Town Concerts

Carole Marchand has been hosting town concerts on the Library porch for the summer.

Library Cards Discussion

Sondra offered an updated Library Card policy, as Thompson, CT is unable to fund their library this fiscal year. Sondra proposed charging a \$35 fee to out-of-state residents who are not Webster taxpayers. She read the proposed changes to the Library Card Policy. Mary moved to approve the policy; Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Building Improvements Trust Status

Mary moved to approve using a building improvement trust fund to pay for the electrical improvements needed for the new office; Jeanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Oral History Project

Although the application to the National Endowment for the Arts Grant was not awarded to us, the oral history project that was part of the application is being pursued. Sondra met with Carole Marchand, Senior Center Director and Karen Warinsky from Poets at Large. Karen has asked to do the requisite interviews. The Samuel Slater Experience has also been contacted to help with this project.

New Business

The Friends donated books to the Worcester County Sheriff's Reading Center, and the Sheriff's most recent newsletter expressed their appreciation.

Adjournment

Sue moved to adjourn; Jeanne seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Mikels, Secretary

Evan Hale, Clerk

Exhibits (to be posted on the Library Website)

Director's Report

Financial Reports

Minutes Approved: September 11, 2025