



Board of Library Trustees
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA
Minutes for Thursday, November 13, 2025

In Attendance

Susan Veshi, Vice Chair, Jeanne Mikels, Secretary, Martina Koziak, Treasurer, Sue Buehler and Rena Klebart were present. Also present were Sondra Murphy, Library Director and Evan Hale, Assistant Director and Board Clerk. Rich Franas, Chair, and Mary Chabot were absent. Robin River, President of the Friends, and Pat Nectow, Treasurer of the Friends, joined the meeting at 5:13PM.

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM.

Minutes:

Martina moved to approve minutes as amended to correct two typos; Rena seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session Called to Order

Susan called the executive session to order at 5:03PM.

Reopen Regular Session

The Executive Session ended, and the regular meeting reopened at 5:12PM.

Reports

Trustees Report from the Director

Sondra mentioned the new hire, KieuLy, has started in her position and went on to highlight camera upgrades and mentioned that Evan and Greg are working on a capital improvement project to update the security system. Evan spoke about his wedding on October 12th.

Warrants and Financial Reports

Martina reviewed the financial reports, mentioning that we're at 32% expended at the rate of 7.5% to 8% per month. Warrants have not yet been signed this month.

Friends Update

Sondra noted the Friends gave \$63,000 to the town, earmarked for the full-time position. The book sale will be May 13th-16th 2026. The Celebration of Volunteers will be May 13th at 5PM. There were 129 people at Bites, Books, and Blooms, with 26 floral displays – an increase of 10 attendees over last year. Donation boxes will be put out in the Community Room and at the Circulation Desk. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library has 210 children subscribed and the Friends' are encouraging more to sign up.

Friends Electronic Sign, discussion of next steps

To accommodate our visitors, this item was addressed earlier than listed in the Agenda. The Friends would like to purchase an electric sign to be put outside the Library. Following discussion, Sondra will speak with Kenneth Pizzetti from the Highway Department. Martina moved to support the Friends' continuing inquiry regarding digital signage on town property, with updates to be included in the Friends' report. Jeanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Holiday Updates for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving

Sondra commented that we were closed for Veterans Day. In honor of Thanksgiving, Wednesday will be a half-day, 9-1, closed Thursday, and closed Friday.

Selectman's Meeting

Sondra presented to the November 10th Selectman's Meeting. She reviewed the year-to-date statistics and spoke about upcoming events, highlighting the oral history project. She plans to attend a meeting in the spring of 2026 to provide an update on the oral history project and it was agreed the presentation would be much more impactful if the Trustees were also able to attend.

Food Pantry/SNAP Support

Sondra wanted feedback regarding supporting patrons struggling with food insecurity. She mentioned that 25% of Webster residents receive SNAP benefits and 40% of those are children. She asked about the possibility of offering food to patrons, and whether that's the Library's prerogative. Discussion ensued but no decisions were reached.

Library Events

Sondra spoke about outreach opportunities the Library has been able to achieve since October and mentioned that the change in hours will provide more opportunities for such events.

Webster/Dudley Business Alliance (Congratulations)

Evan has been voted onto the board of the Webster/Dudley Business Alliance. This will be very helpful in furthering the goals of The Nest.

Teen Room Discussion

The room has been reopened, with mandatory quiet hours between 2:30 and 4:30 when a staff member is present. Only 2 computers remain and some furniture has been removed. A Google Nest camera has been installed temporarily, to cover a blind spot.

Main Street Trick or Treat

Sondra reported 900 people came to the Library during the Main Street Trick or Treat event. This is triple the 2024 attendance!

Oral History Update

Friday, November 14th will be the first round of interviews at the Senior Center with three Interviews scheduled. Sondra and Evan will attend the Veterans Luncheon next Wednesday and will inquire if any veterans are interested in participating in the oral history project. Nichols students will edit the footage with screenings, tentatively planned for April.

New Business

Sondra's annual review was last week, and she will share the results with the Trustees when they are received.

Adjournment

Martina moved to adjourn; Rena seconded. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Mikels, Secretary

Evan Hale, Clerk

Exhibits (to be posted on the Library Website)

Director's Report

Financial Reports

Minutes Approved: December 11, 2025