



**Board of Library Trustees**  
**Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA**  
**Minutes for Thursday, January 8, 2026**

**In Attendance**

Rich Franas, Chair, Susan Veshi, Vice Chair, Jeanne Mikels, Secretary, Susan Buehler, Mary Chabot and Rena Klebart. Also present, Sondra Murphy, Library Director, and Evan Hale, Assistant Director and Board Clerk. Martina Koziak, Treasurer arrived at 5:28PM.

**Meeting Called to Order**

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

**Minutes:**

Mary moved to accept the minutes as written; Rena seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Sue abstaining.

**Reports**

Trustees Report from the Director

Sondra spoke about outreach opportunities, including the United Way luncheon, Veteran's Luncheon, and the Oral History Project. Evan spoke about the statistics and how favorably the attendance and in program numbers are trending.

Warrants and Financial Reports

Martina reported that for the 6 weeks ending December 31, 2025, the following warrants were signed: Payroll - \$ 62k and Accounts Payable - \$ 33k.

Sondra mentioned that we have received our first State Aid allotment. She also shared information related to the Estate of Richard J. Edmonston of Auburn, MA who has bequeathed a portion of his estate to the Webster Public Library.

Friends Update

The Friends are continuing to investigate signage in front of the Library. They spoke about the volunteer appreciation night and book sale, both happening on May 13th.

**Unfinished Business**

Holiday Hour Review for January

Mary moved to approve the Library be closed on January 19th, MLK Day; Jeanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Review and Approval

Sondra spoke about the proposed FY 2027 budget which includes the 5% reduction as requested by the Town. Most of the reduction came from the Materials Line. Trust Funds dedicated to the purchase of circulating materials can be used to cover the reduction. Jeanne moved to approve the proposed budget; Mary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Action Plan Joint Meeting Discussion

Sondra spoke to the Friends about discussing the annual action plan in a joint meeting with the Trustees in May.

### One Book, One Community Discussion

Sondra signed the contract with RF Kuang for her visit April 29<sup>th</sup>. She will present at the High School prior to the adult discussion at 7:15PM.

### Access to Justice Discussion

Evan spoke about a new Access to Justice initiative that allows people remote access to court business. This will be established in Study Room 205 as soon as a computer is available.

### **New Business**

#### The Library as a Wedding Venue

Sondra mentioned the Friends' discussed the possibility of using the Library as a wedding venue. Discussion regarding this idea will continue.

#### EBSCO Solar Grant

Evan provided information about EBSCO Solar Grant to add solar panels to the Library roof. Martina moved to approve the Grant Application; Rena seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Sue moved to adjourn; Martina seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeanne Mikels*, Secretary

*Evan Hale*, Clerk

### **Exhibits** (to be posted on the Library Website)

Director's Report

Financial Reports

Minutes Approved: February 12, 2026