



Board of Library Trustees
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA
Minutes for Thursday, February 12, 2026

In Attendance

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

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM

Minutes:

Mary moved to approve the minutes as written; Martina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Trustees Report from the Director

Sondra reported that she and Evan had met with Tim to discuss the FY27 budget that was submitted. She also mentioned the importance of backfilling the Children's Assistant Librarian position. The Friends have offered Thursday, May 21st for a joint meeting with Trustees. Rick approved applying for the EBSCO Solar Grant after meeting with Sondra and Evan. The security system will be upgraded as soon as Town Meeting approves the budget. Evan spoke about a few economic development projects, a potential downtown "block party", scheduling another walking tour with the National Park Service and historical signage to be installed near the River Walk.

Warrants and Financial Reports

Martina spoke about the financial reports. She has not yet had a chance to sign the warrants. Evan asked for trust fund expenditures to pay \$1,500 for the OBOC invoice. Martina moved to use the balance of the Josephine Kemp trust fund, with the remainder coming out of the Commerce Insurance fund; Mary seconded. The motion passed successfully.

Friends Update

Sondra attended the last Friends meeting. Sondra offered a few suggestions to utilize some of the Friends' available funds. Rena moved to approve the suggestion for creating a Children's Librarian office, improvements to the Children's circulation desk, and installation of a dishwasher; Martina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Holiday Hour Review for February

Presidents Day is Monday, February 19th. Mary moved to close the Library on Monday; Jeanne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Status

Previously discussed.

Library Hours Impact

The change in hours has received many positive comments.

Volunteer Needs

The imbalance between available volunteers and opportunities to utilize them was discussed.

Open Staff Impact

Sondra will ask the Friends to fund a summer intern children's assistant if we are unable to fill the position.

Friends Joint Meeting

Previously discussed.

Open Trustee Papers/Re-election

Martina has taken out Nomination Papers. Rich and Sue have chosen not to seek reelection.

Grant Status

ARSL has an open grant for which we'll be applying as there are a few sustainability projects that would fall under this grant's purview. Mass Cultural Council and Malser are opening soon. If approved those grants would probably be applied to One Book/One Community.

One Book/One Community

Sondra applied to use the High School Auditorium for this year's One Book/One Community with RF Kuang. Friends' members will have a 24-hour advance period to register for the event prior to opening registration to the general public.

Annual Report Status

Evan drafted the Annual Report, Sondra polished it and it has been submitted.

New Business

Sondra will be taking vacation from the 16th – 24th.

Adjournment

Mary moved to adjourn; Martina seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Mikels, Secretary

Evan Hale, Clerk

Exhibits (to be posted on the Library Website)

Director's Report

Financial Reports

Minutes Approved: March 12, 2026