



Board of Library Trustees
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA
Minutes for Thursday, April 9, 2026

In Attendance

Rich Franas, Chair, Susan Veshi, Vice Chair, Jeanne Mikels, Secretary, Rena Klebart, and Sue Buehler. Also in attendance Sondra Murphy, Library Director, and Evan Hale, Assistant Director and Board Clerk. Mary Chabot and Martina Koziak, Treasurer, arrived at 5:07PM.

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04PM.

Minutes:

Susan moved to approve the minutes as written; Rena seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Trustees Report from the Director

Sondra spoke about a meeting with the Police Chief regarding 'teen and 'tween behavior issues. An officer will walk through daily, between 3 and 4 to show there is a presence here. Evan mentioned that we had over 2,000 more people in the building this March than last March.

Warrants and Financial Reports

Tia spoke about the financial reports and plans to sign warrants this week.

Friends Update

Sondra presented requests for the building and programs at the last Friends' board meeting. They approved an additional \$5,200 for a children's author visit to the Library. Jerry Craft will do a talk at Park Ave Elementary, followed by a talk at the Library. They also approved the purchase of 25 chairs and 4 folding tables for the Children's craft room, and the installation of a dishwasher. A carpenter's services are required to begin the installation. Finally, they approved a \$2,500 expenditure for Vox and Wonderbooks that are a combination of audio and physical books. These will be paid for by a donation made to the Friends specifically for dyslexia friendly materials. Sondra mentioned adding the office behind the children's circulation desk and building a 'tween area, but those projects were not approved.

Unfinished Business

Room Naming/Dedication

A formal request has been received for a space in the Library to be dedicated to Senator Richard T. Moore for his efforts in achieving 75% state funding for the construction of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library. Rena moved to rename the Community Room as the Senator Richard T. Moore Room; Mary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Board: Elected Versus Appointed

Sondra approached the Town Administrator about the Library Board of Trustees being an appointed versus an elected board. General discussion followed, and further investigation will be pursued.

Furniture Updates

KI submitted a quote for 16 replacement chairs for the Study Rooms totaling \$6,079. Mary moved to purchase the chairs with trust funds; Sue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Grants Status

We have applied to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust grant for \$10,000 for One Book, One Community, and to Mass Cultural Council for the same project.

Oral History Project Program: Attendance

The project has been completed, and Sondra reported that both the Mass Historical Society and the Worcester Museum are very interested in presenting it in the fall. She also reviewed the scheduled showings. Next year's project will be veteran oriented.

One Book/One Community

The talk will be in the newly renovated Bartlett High School Auditorium which seats 350 on the main floor as current reservations are more than the Library can hold. The talk will be on April 29th at 6:30PM, doors open at 6PM. Rebecca declined a pre-event reception.

Friends Funding

Previously discussed.

Public Relations Ideas

Continued discussion of ideas to celebrate the Library's 10-year anniversary.

Volunteer Appreciation

It will be on May 13th from 5-7PM at the Library.

New Business

Elections

Previously discussed.

Budget

The Town Administrator issued the FY28 proposed budget with a \$7,000 cut to the materials budget from FY26, requiring use of \$8,500 from trust funds to fulfill the State's materials expenditure requirement.

Children's Assistant Position

Sondra applied for a seasonal certification determination for part-time employees. The State denied the request. Sondra believes we'll be able to post the children's position soon.

Adjournment

Jeanne moved to adjourn the meeting; Mary seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Mikels, Secretary

Evan Hale, Clerk

Exhibits (to be posted on the Library Website)

Director's Report

Financial Reports

Richard Miller letter

Minutes Approved: May 14, 2026