



Board of Library Trustees
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA
Minutes for Thursday, May 14, 2026

In Attendance

Rich Franas, outgoing Chair, Susan Veshi, Vice Chair, Jeanne Mikels, Secretary, Martina Koziak, Treasurer, Mary Chabot, Rena Klebart, and Ashleigh Dziedzik. Also present, Sondra Murphy, Library Director, and Evan Hale, Assistant Director and Board Clerk. Sarah Reed arrived at 5:03PM. Rich Franas left at 5:05PM.

Meeting Called to Order

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

Introduction of new board members:

Ashleigh Dziedzik and Sarah Reed, new trustees, introduced themselves.

Election of Officers

Rich nominated Susan Veshi as Chair; Martina seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Martina nominated Rena Klebart as Vice Chair; Sarah seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mary nominated Jeanne Mikels as secretary; Rena seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mary nominated Martina Koziak as treasurer; Rena seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Mary moved to approve the minutes as written; Martina seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Sarah and Ashley abstaining.

Reports

Trustees Report from the Director

Sondra announced that we may present Threaded Together, the oral history project at the New England Library Association conference in Burlington, VT. She mentioned a meeting with Joey Wigglesworth, Director of Planning & Economic Development for Webster regarding collaboration opportunities and The Nest. There was discussion about continuing issues with high school and middle school students. Evan spoke about some grant funding that was earmarked for The Nest programming. He also spoke about a local business expo and job fair coming up in June. Finally, we explained a new feature with Library cards where patrons are able to add registered users to their account if they have others that they want to have access to checking out items or picking up holds.

Warrants and Financial Reports

Martina spoke about the financial reports, and reported she has signed the warrants (A/P - \$8,854, Payroll - \$32,218) for the period 4/20/2026 through 5/9/2026.

Friends Update

At the April meeting, One Book, One Community was discussed. The Friends approved funding for the children's author Jerry Craft's visit and tables, chairs for the children's craft room, and a dishwasher. However, we are having trouble finding a carpenter able to make the structural changes required for its installation.

Sondra met with the building architect about redesigning the Children's circulation desk to accommodate two workers, as well as other children's room improvements.

Unfinished Business

Sen Moore Community Room

Sondra is planning an event in the fall with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the renaming. Trustees signed a letter to Senator Moore's staff about the plan to rename the room.

Joint Trustees/Friends Meeting May 21

Sondra mentioned the joint meeting between the Friends and Trustees will be a brainstorming session to develop ideas for next year's action plan.

Furniture Updates

Sondra has purchased new chairs for the study rooms at a total cost of \$6,762.28.

Grants Status

The Library received \$10,000 for One Book, One Community from the Malser Humanities Trust. We did not receive the grant from the ARSL intended to fund a storywalk. Sondra applied for a United Way grant for \$15,000 under the Friends to fund one or two children's authors to present at the schools. Evan applied for the solar grant through EBSCO. Sondra also applied for the Mass Cultural Council grant to fund One Book, One Community.

Oral History Project

We will screen the Oral History project at Christopher Heights. We have several venues for the fall: the Museum of Worcester, the Mass Historical Society, the Dudley Library, and Tri-Valley elder services. It will also be shown again at the Library on June 18th. Elaine Davies suggested Ann Vajcovec be interviewed for the next oral history project as soon as possible. She is 104 years old.

One Book/One Community

There were 167 in person attendees for RF Kuang's talk, with 100 people streaming online. We will meet in June for a wrap-up and finalize next year's author.

Children's Assistant Position

The job was posted on Tuesday the 12th. We have been receiving applicants.

Further Discussion on Trustee Election v. Appointment

There was further discussion regarding the pros and cons of an elected vs an appointed board. The consensus was to remain an elected board.

New Business

Library Card Policy

Sondra spoke about amending the policy to allow out-of-state students attending a Massachusetts College or University to receive a free card. Mary moved to approve the change; Martina seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting Update

Sondra spoke about the town meeting. The camera upgrade was approved, as well as the Library budget.

Library Closure Policy

Susan spoke about a closure policy for weather-related emergencies, along with other circumstances that would require closures. We will move forward with developing policies and procedures for these events.

Adjournment

Mary moved to adjourn; Martina seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:31PM.

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: June 11, 2026