



Board of Library Trustees
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA
Minutes for Thursday, August 13, 2026

In Attendance

Susan Veshi, Chair, Mary Chabot, Ashleigh Dziedzic, and Sarah Reed. Also present, Sondra Murphy, Library Director and Evan Hale, Assistant Director and Board Clerk. Absent - Rena Klebart, Vice Chair, Jeanne Mikels, Secretary, and Martina Koziak, Treasurer.

Meeting Called to Order

Susan called the meeting to order at 4:59PM.

Minutes:

Mary moved to accept the minutes as written; Ashleigh seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Trustees Report from the Director

Sondra mentioned that *Threaded Together* has been entered into a local film festival. Evan mentioned that building attendance in July is the highest recorded total on record.

Warrants and Financial Reports

This month had a 12% run rate due to many of our yearly maintenance contracts, and our CWMARS renewal being processed at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Friends Update

Sondra spoke about updates from the Friends' Board Meeting. Bites, Books, and Blooms tickets will be on sale to Friends members starting August 20th, and to the public starting August 24th. Anne Marie Palermo is collecting cookbook recipes from Webster residents to be included in a Friends of the Library cookbook, which will be used as a fundraiser.

Unfinished Business

Trustee Orientation Follow-up

Susan went to one of the sessions; other trustees have saved them but have yet to watch them.

Trustee Donation Suggestions

Susan mentioned that Rena suggested the Trustees contribute a raffle basket to Bites, Books, and Blooms. Rena will spearhead this effort, and other board members will provide either items, or cash, to be used to put together the basket.

Friends Collaboration

Susan met with Robin, president of the Friends, to discuss how the trustees can better collaborate with the Friends' board. Robin brought some action items, including members from both boards attending the other organizations' meetings.

Senator Moore Community Room Dedication

Sondra will get a dessert table and coffee for the dedication. We are still unsure of the number of guests who will be attending the event.

Grants Status

We asked for \$10,000 to install a permanent storywalk from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. This grant was applied for under the Friends' name because the GWCF will not write checks directly to municipalities.

Building Update

The elevator needed to be repaired during an inspection. The cost has not yet been determined.

- No Trespass Order

A patron was issued a no-trespass order.

New Business

NELA Conference Presentation

Evan and Sondra are going to the NELA conference in late October and will do a presentation about Threaded Together. Evan was accepted into a Library Leadership Conference at the end of November.

Temporary Staff Member

Evan presented the details to the trustees regarding funding a temporary position during Jess Fontaine's upcoming leave through Bibliotemps, a temp placement agency that is run by the Massachusetts Library System. The maximum duration of the temporary position would be from September 26, 2026 through January 30, 2027, 18 total weeks. The pay rate for the position would be \$17.50/hour, with a 53% service fee, bringing the billed total to \$26.78/hour. This represents \$401.70 per week, and a total of \$7,320.60 for the 18 week duration. Mary moved to pay for a temporary position using trust funds; Sarah seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Early Closure BBB - September 23

Mary moved to close the library at 4PM on September 23rd to prepare for BB&B; Ashleigh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Susan moved to adjourn; Ashleigh seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Mikels, Secretary

Evan Hale, Clerk

Exhibits (to be posted on the Library Website)

Director's Report

Financial Reports

Minutes Approved: September 10, 2026