

Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:30 P.M. -Trustees Room-Milton Public Library

Attendees: Will Adamczyk, Sean Bentley, Hyacinth Crichlow, Susan Doyle, John Focarelli, Paul Hays, Jaime Levash, Kristine Hodlin, Sindu Meir, James Potter, Chair. All present.

Meeting recorded by Owl Device

- 1- Call to Order
- 2- Citizen's Speak
- 3- Secretary's Report
 - a. Approval of November 10, 2025 minutes – Moved HC seconded PH all in favor unanimous.

Committee Reports

4-Report from Bartholomew on Trust Funds-

- Library and Foundation monies are split into 70 % stocks and 30% bonds
- Ending balance as of 12/31/2025 – \$1,063,826.30
- This total does not include the monies, just over \$500,000.00, for the sale of the Kidder Lib., of which, the library may only use the interest for its purposes.
- As Library's relationship grows with Bartholomew our service fee decreases. Their service fee is now 0.44% annually from 0.53% due to the Foundation putting their investments into Bartholomew.
- Library uses 2% of trust funds annually.
- In 2026 the Library's annual spending budget will increase. Expenses for Parking consultant, conferences, annual open house, scholarships and increase in writer in residence stipend.
- Library also has a Gift Account – small purchases that donors want to make. Basically monies going in and out quickly, i.e., small book donations, labels etc.
- Will create and adopt donation account for cash and donation of stocks. One account for Library and a separate account for the Foundation.

5-Report of the Building Committee

- A. Parking update – feasibility Study – request for additional funds for a traffic consultant who will need to do in person work and complete a written report. This will be an additional \$5,000.00 over the original \$10,000.00 from the building expansion fund. Motion to accept increased amount, motion by JF and seconded by JP.
- B. Parking Forum- March 3, 2026- Keyes Room -6:30PM. Trustee support requested.
- C. Other building updates - Chimney and gas logs inspected, new furniture and plaque donated to the library for the Pierce Reading Room in memory of former library employee.

6- Report of Finance Committee

- A. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Budget for FY27
 - No official change yet – town is in a 2.4 million budget deficit.
 - Health insurance cost going up by double digits.
- B. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Capital requests- meeting with consolidated facilities, everything is constrained.

7- Report of the Strategic Planning Committee

- A. Discussion: Preparing for the next strategic plan
 - January - Planning Committee needs to appoint two Trustee Members and form a steering committee which will include: Friends of the MPL member, Foundation member, citizens, Library Trustees
 - February – brainstorm what citizens could be on the steering committee; focus groups and surveys also
 - Allows us to request grants – federal and MBPC -MA Board Public Grants
 - Jaime Lavash and Paul Hays volunteered to represent trustees on Strategic Planning Committee
 - PH motioned to accept calendar for Strategic Planning all approved

8- Report of the Equity Committee

- Planning for September Open House 2026 event –

CONTINUING BUSINESS

9- Library Director's Report

- Staffing changes-
- FY26 budget update
- State House update – continue to work on Ebook legislation, Freedom to Read Bill – Senator Moran sponsored bill.
- OCLN AND MPL beginning transition into Evergreen our new computer system. Staff will start training on how to use a card catalog , check out a book etc. next two to three months.
- A lot of programming going on in Library i.e., stranger things programs, new adult programming and new adult programming staff. They are hitting the ground running! A great couple of months.
- Wednesday, April 13, 2026 – Foundation sponsored event featuring the book Brooklyn with author Colm Toibin presenting.

10 - Communications & next steps with Library partners

11 – DISCUSSION/ACTION: Library Director reimbursement- For travel, educational, and professional expenses.

- Motion made to pay expenses by JF and seconded by SB, unanimous approval

12 – Other – annual survey – Consultant for parking will send questions for library survey. Also send survey to all staff.

NEW BUSINESS

13 – other new business - none

FUTURE MEETINGS

14 – Future Meetings: February (committees); March 9, 2026 – 7:00PM, April (committees); May 4, 2026 then a

15 – Items for future meetings

- March Meeting Topics will include Building Committee, Nominating, Personnel and Strategic Planning

16 – Motion to Adjourn – HC motioned and PH seconded. Unanimous Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Doyle, Secretary

January 12, 2026