

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2026

Attendees: Nancy Baker, Jackie McKnight, Steve Mantius, C.J. Butler, Jim McGinness, Toni Dinkel, Amy Lapointe; Dave Hallenbeck, via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:5 pm. Minutes of March 16 meeting were corrected by Jim McGinness then approved.

Library Director's Report: Amy explained that, as expected, circulation numbers appear lower due to the extension from a 2-week to a 3-week checkout period (Approximately a 30% decline). She said eventually, the statistics will cycle back to a more accurate reflection of activity.

Upcoming programming for adults and children were reviewed. Discussion about the upcoming FOATL student art show centered on the reduced display area and whether this was a good time to shmooze adult attendees about the library. Comments were made that it is usually a very busy, loud and crowded atmosphere where parents are focused on their children, and not conducive to meaningful chat, and especially under the current conditions. The reception for the art show is May 9, 12-2 pm.

A reminder noted that the library is closed May 10 for Mother's Day.

No new gifts were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported that the library is still running under budget, with approximately 27% left for the remaining 25% of the budget year. Higher costs (based on higher use) for HOOPLA have helped drive up costs for "books and material". Discussion focused on adjusting budget items to cover deficits as well as tapping trustee funds.

Old Business: Amy reported that nothing has moved forward yet for the restoration of the lower level. While the insurance has presented their budget for the repairs, the pricing for non-insurance covered items - shelving, furniture, etc. - has been coming in piecemeal increments from the general contractor so she has

been unable to get a final figure with which to work. She explained that the DPW and the general contractor are working together.

The board recommended that Amy tell the contractor that they are expecting final numbers in the next 2 weeks to put some pressure on him to get things going.

Questions on the condition of the Boardman Room since becoming the de facto children's room were raised and it was noted that it is in good shape with no apparent repercussions. Nancy suggested a celebration when the room is reopened, noting that the Friends will help out and The Bear will provide newspaper coverage.

A motion was made that the May board meeting be moved up by 1 week to May 11 in anticipation of being able to review and accept the budget for the lower-level restoration. Seconded and approved.

New Business: Annual joint board/staff meeting tentatively scheduled for June 23. Amy will double check library calendars to see if that looks conducive for staff. A tentative discussion topic was offered, asking the library staff to discuss their visions of the Library's future and function over the next 10+ years and what they hear from patrons.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Toni Dinkel 4/23/26