

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

August 10, 2026

Attendees: Nancy Baker, Dave Hallenbeck (remote), Jim McGinness, Liz Larson, Toni Dinkel (late) and Amy Lapointe

Nancy Baker called the meeting to order at 6:07p.m.

Minutes from June 25, 2026: Liz Larson moved and Jim McGinness seconded to approve the minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Library Director's Report: Circulation looks to be down because of the change in circulation policy. Adult virtual program attendance is down, although registrations remain robust. Unknown if people are going back to watch recordings.

Digital media circulation has slowed after strong growth over past few years.

Door count remains up.

Summer reading participation was up for the year. End of summer ice cream party was a hoot. Some of the prizes for summer reading were experiences w/ Amherst Fire or Police and they knocked it out of the park.

Offering daytime and nighttime book club option. Mahjong is taking off.

Closed Labor Day weekend, Sunday hours resume in September.

Friends of the Library Open House - two time slots. September 10, 9:30-11:00am and September 16 4:30-6pm. Lucienne Foulks is going to be the new Art Coordinator for the Friends, taking over for Stacey Morrison.

Town budget process is beginning. Suspect that might look a little different this year and to streamline budget and strategic plan.

One page, Zack Elmer, going to American University.

No new gifts.

Treasurer's Report: Start of new year. Seeing e-materials cost increasing faster than standard inflation. Libraries have a different cost structure than individual purchasers.

MFS recovery of funds moving along

Old Business: Work on downstairs continues, but feels slow. Friends have helped cover costs significantly. Next step will be to figure out what happens to Boardman room.

New Business:

Jim McGinness moved and Toni Dinkel seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

Amended 9/21/26 to include: A robust discussion of reading trends and The Atlantic article "*The Age of Reading is Over*" by Rose Horowitz closed out the meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.