

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
September 21, 2026

Attendees: Steve Mantuis, Nancy Baker, Dave Hallenback, Jim McGinness, Liz Larson, Toni Dinkel (remote), Gretchen Pyles, CJ Butler, Jackie McKnight

Library Directors Report: circulation continues to disappoint given the change in circulation policy. Door count remains consistent.

Review of all the great programming going on this fall. Friends hosted two info sessions, both good attendance.

Raffle for any library card referrals!

GMILCS seeing a lot of retirements, lots of board turnover.

No new gifts (although Dave did bring donuts!)

Treasurers Report: Some fine money was rechristened; reviewed income versus accounts balances. Review of budget. Some town benefits being rolled up to town level for 2028 (health, dental, custodian, HSA). Robust debate about pros and cons of change.

Update on Lower Level: Contractor reports they are on track. Shelving tentatively going in early November, furniture delivery also early November. Discussion around when/how will do ribbon cutting and celebration. Plan is for Trustees to be available to listen and learn from patrons. Likely will be during HoobieWattie on December 5th.

Boardman Room Suggestion: Have been soliciting ideas which include, art room, hot tub, comfy chair room, listening room, trampoline..... Survey will go out shortly. Nancy implored us again to reach out and learn from patrons to learn how to engage people with the library.

Boardman Concert: will skip this year due to construction projects.

Libby will begin requiring PIN number. It is the same as your library card.

Board approved holiday and close calendar for 2027. Steve Mantius motioned and Gretchen Pyles seconded to approve.

Amy reviewed budget process and timeline. Board likely requested to attend. Proposed budget has approximate 5% increase.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35pm (James McGinness moved and Steve Mantius seconded)

Next meeting: October 19th at 6pm (Gretchen said she would take notes!)

Submitted by: Liz Larson