

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

September 15, 2025

Attendees: Nancy Baker, Nancy Head, Liz Larson, Steve Mantius, Gretchen Pyles, Jim McGinness, Amy Lapointe, Dave Hallenbeck (remote) and Toni Dinkel (remote)

Nancy Baker called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Minutes from August 18, 2025: Steve M. moved and Nancy H. seconded to approve minutes with one amendment to correct the date of the meeting to August 18, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

Statistics: Busy summer; hopefully trend continues

Upcoming and Ongoing Adult Programs: An excellent selection of programs coming up.

Children's Programs: Storytimes run for seven weeks and then there is one week off; Reading Dragons will be beginning again; Fairy House Fest and Fire Safety storytime will be held in the fall; and Halloween Costume Exchange will be held again this year.

Friends of the Library: Thanks to Shelley Quinn who has been president for several years; the new president will be Kim Ahlgren.

Town: Jeff Candito will be the new Finance Director; he is an active library patron.

Building: DPW will be requesting funding for a future elevator project.

Reminder: The library will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2025 for Columbus Day.

Personnel: Sara Martina will be greatly missed and her last day will be on September 25, 2025; Lisa Griffin will transition to the Children's Room and a new Library Assistant will be hired.

Legislation: State legislation regarding public libraries discussed; we will follow the revised laws; details will be forthcoming.

Accept New Gifts: No new gifts.

Treasurer's Report: The budget was discussed; we are under budget; some expenses front loaded; MS9 trustee report from the town discussed; many of the funds date to the early 1900s.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan: Slides and video regarding Strategic Plan presentation to Board of Selectmen provided; Nancy B. reported that Amy L. did a nice job at the presentation; budget timeline discussed; similar to past years.

New Business:

Strategic Planning Discussion: Horowitch, Rose. "The Elite College Students Who Can't Read Books." The Atlantic, October 1, 2024; opportunity to encourage love of reading early on; article suggests if you don't encourage that love early, you lose the skills later; parents are role models for their kids; are kids' attention span getting shorter?; social media contributing; if kids struggle to read, there are lots of other ways to get information; the vocabulary of older books is very different from today's; focus on reading for the love of it no matter what reading; reviewed documents shared by Dave H.

Boardman Concert: Trio Belmont will be performing on November 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Steve M. moved to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.; Liz L. seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.