

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

October 20, 2025

Attendees: Nancy Baker, Nancy Head, Liz Larson, Steve Mantius, Jim McGinness, Dave Hallenbeck, Toni Dinkel, CJ Butler, Jackie McKnight, Gretchen Pyles, and Amy Lapointe

Nancy Baker called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes from September 15, 2025: Steve moved and Liz seconded to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

Statistics: Statistics reviewed; door count up

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

Children's Programs: Exciting new program called "Book Buddies - Little Buddies" where high school students volunteer to let 1st through 4th grade students read to them (or vice versa)

Friends of the Library: They will be holding the jewelry fundraiser again this year; accepting jewelry donations through November

Town/Community: Jacob Fitzgerald will be the new Finance Director

Collection: Baker and Taylor, a major distributor for libraries including ours, has ceased operations.

Treasurer's Report: The budget was discussed; we may invite Bob Grunbeck from the Trustees of the Trust Fund to speak to us about the library's funds.

Personnel: Sara Martina retired and Lisa Griffin moved to the Children's Room; lots of applicants to fill the vacant Library Assistant position; Max Blanchette has a lot of experience at the Merrimack Public Library; Liz moved to hire Max Blanchette as a Library Assistant and Steve seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

FY27 Budget: Steve and Amy met with Ways and Means members; our discretionary funds have not changed much year to year; we have a lean budget; Liz moved to approve the latest version of the budget; Steve seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan: Reviewed articles provided by Dave; interested in learning the age distribution of children in Amherst; library can continue to instill the love of reading for children.

Boardman Concert: Trio Belmont will be performing on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.; a sign up sheet for refreshments was circulated.

New Business:

Library to close at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2025 for staff holiday get together; Liz moved and Steve seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Liz moved and Toni seconded to adjourn. The meeting ended at 7:27 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: November 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.