

Hamilton-Wenham Public Library

Minutes from the Board of Trustees- December 11, 2025

Present: MJ Brown, Jane Kusel, Karen Bebergal, Bethany Yu, Denise Bisallion, Grace Meo,
Director: Kim Butler

Meeting opened: 6:35pm

Staff Meet and Greet:

The Trustees were introduced to Young Adult Librarian: Kim Claire. Kim takes care of the selection, processing, and cataloging of the YA collection at the library. We had an informative conversation with Kim about upcoming programs!

Trustees voted to approve October 9 and November 13 minutes.

Budget:

Kim met with the liaison to the Hamilton Capital Committee and reviewed the capital request (parking lot) Steve Poulos (Wenham Town Administrator) and Jeff Soulard (Wenham Finance Director) were also in attendance.

Steve said he would recommend approving the project.

Busy year for Technology spending. Trying to conserve due to website project coming up.

Building:

Mike Hrdy (Facilities Manager-Wenham) is in the process of obtaining a quote for carpet cleaning on the second floor, for after the HVAC project. Mike is pricing new door locks. \$1400 could be the price for one door.

The HVAC project is moving along.

Personnel:

Tom Jones was hired as the new part-time children's room assistant. Tom is a Wenham resident and has received his MLS from Simmons. Tom serves as executive director of The Musary, a well-known and beloved musical instrument lending library.

Technology:

Patrick Keller, Reference and Technology Librarian, is adjusting well and has the 3D printer up and running.

Kim is going through the results of the new website survey. Kim had a promising meeting over Zoom with Compete Now.

MVLC:

MVLC Membership voted to approve the FY27 budget at the meeting in November.

Membership approved using capital reserve funds to begin switching email service from Outlook/Microsoft to Google.

Other:

We were the first group approved and certified for state aid by the MBLC on November 6.

Kim met with Angelina and Jessica to begin planning for the America 250 celebration next year. They plan to organize a Library Crawl for patrons to visit various libraries as part of the celebration.

In November, the MA State Senate voted to adopt two bills: An Act Regarding Free Expression (Freedom to Read) and another Act addressing challenges facing public libraries and digital collections. Very important bills!

IMLS update from MBLC: On November 21, a U.S. District Court Judge ruled in favor of 21 state attorneys general, including Massachusetts, regarding the Executive Order that sought to dismantle IMLS. The court's decision permanently blocks Executive Order 14238, thereby ensuring that IMLS can continue to provide essential support and funding to libraries across the nation. This is very hopeful.

Kim has applied for a scholarship from Massachusetts Library System to attend the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in June.

Reports From Staff:

The children's room has been undergoing collection maintenance.

Exciting programming is planned for December and January!

Jessica (Adult Services): In January, all departments will work together to present the second annual Bundle Up With Books Winter Reading Challenge.

Dede (Circulation) There are wonderful displays throughout the library, including a puzzle display where patrons can take or donate puzzles.

Old Business:

The Trustees voted to approve the Safe Child Policy.

The FY27 budget process went well.

Friends Report:

The current membership stands at 50 members.

Taylor Ann Bradford, Editor of HW News, will be a special guest at the 25th Anniversary kickoff and Membership Drive on Tuesday, January 6.

Meeting ended: 7:56pm

Next meeting: Thursday, January 8, 2026