

Hamilton-Wenham Public Library

Minutes from The Board of Trustees- February 12, 2026

Present: MJ Brown, Karen Bebergal, Bethany Yu, Grace Meo, Director: Kim Butler

Absent: Jane Kusel and Denise Bisallion



Meeting opened: 6:34pm [How to make a pdf from word.mp4](#)

Staff Meet and Greet:

The Trustees were introduced to Assistant Library Director, Angelina Miller.

Angelina has been with the library for a year and a half. She looks forward to enhancing visibility and accessibility of services on the anticipated new website. Angelina is also enthusiastic about developing additional outreach ideas and working on the Library of Things collection.

The Trustees voted to approve January 8 Minutes.

Budget:

Kim renewed Assabet interactive membership (browser-based software)

Wenham had a meeting on FY27 Capital Project Proposals. Prior to meeting Kim met with Steve Poulos (Wenham Town Administrator)

Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Friends about maintenance for the new website.

Building:

The HVAC work continues. ATCO has been working to get the newly installed ventilation properly insulated. The new HVAC controls system is live and performing efficiently, maintaining consistent building temperature. The work began in the large meeting room and will continue this month.

A few minor repairs this month:

A plumber repaired urinal in the first-floor men's room.

Mike Hrdy (Wenham Facilities Manager) repaired loose rails on the second floor overlook and unclogged a drain in the meeting room.

Kim emailed the Wenham Town Manager and DPW Director to praise Mike and the Wenham DPW for their hard work during the January snowstorm.

Personnel:

Because of a scheduling conflict, the initial union negotiation meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is February 12. Two more meetings are scheduled for next month.

Technology:

Kim worked with Christine Letterman (Equitous Technology Solutions) to purchase a basic staff laptop, which will primarily be used by Angelina.

MVLC:

MVLC had an informal Director's round table discussion on the progress with the ILS reviews and demos. Kim volunteered to serve on the MVLC by-law review sub-committee.

A February meeting will take place in a couple of weeks.

Other:

The library was closed on Monday, January 6 and Saturday, February 7 due to snowstorms. The library will be closed on Monday, February 23, from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. for a quarterly staff meeting.

Due to ongoing HVAC work, the Friends Monday donation day will be held on the first floor of the library near the Library of Things collection.

For the second time this fiscal year, the library has lowered the number of monthly Hoopla borrows. Patrons are now allowed 4 borrows a month. It has become quite expensive. Kim will go over budget caps for the next fiscal year.

Kim has finished reclassifying science fiction into regular fiction.

The governor's FY27 state budget allowed for a 2% increase for all state-level library funding line items. The budget is now in the House for debate.

Kim helped the Friends secure a speaker for their annual meeting. Mel Allen, the retired editor of Yankee Magazine, will be the speaker! Mr. Allen is also the author of a new book.

The annual meeting will be held on Friday, May 1 at 6:30pm.

Reports From Staff:

Kati (Tech Services):

The Lego display in the vestibule was very popular again this year. Kati, sometimes with the help of her family enjoys making the displays.

The Patton Homestead Book Club has added new members this year. The club has relocated to the local history room due to Homestead currently being occupied by Hamilton Town Hall. The new location seems to be much easier for members.

Jessica (Adult Services):

Several wonderful programs are in store for March, including a Barbie movie screening in collaboration with-W Human Rights Coalition, a cheese tasting with Vin Fromage and the return of the Ukrainian Egg Workshop.

The 2nd annual winter reading challenge for all ages was popular again with patrons!

Lorraine (Children's)

Busy programs in store include knitting classes, a therapy dog visit from Keeva, Lunar New Year celebration, and more. Also, welcoming new assistant, Tom.

Old Business:

Website project update:

Renaissance Web Solutions has been selected for the library website project. They have worked with other consortium libraries. Kim and staff are looking forward to a fully customized website.

New Business:

Trustees approved Museum Pass Policy with a small edit.

Trustees will continue discussion and review of Library Trust Fund Policy.

The 25th anniversary was discussed and will be revisited at the next meeting. Bethany will put together a sign-up sheet for Trustees.

Friends Report:

More fundraising and membership discussion.

Meeting ended: 7:50pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:30