

MENDON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday September 8, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Mendon Public Library

Unapproved

PRESENT: Mary McCabe (President), Tom Ochsenhirt (Vice-President), Alison Zero Jones (Treasurer), Katie Corey (Corresponding Secretary), Tom Dooley, Alicia Zysman-Cromwell

EXCUSED:

OTHERS PRESENT: Lyla Grills (Director), Lisa Reniff (Recording Secretary)

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Mary McCabe.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Tom Ochsenhirt)

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2025, Mendon Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting with corrections.

Motion: Tom Dooley

Second: Alison Zero Jones

Unanimously Approved

PRESIDENT REPORT: (Mary McCabe)

The Continuing Education program that Mary attended recommended the BOT evaluating themselves. It was thought spring with the director would be good timing.

Mary is continuing to monitor the IMLS litigation and has not heard anything.

A discussion was held regarding the size of the BOT. The BOT discussed the process to decide the candidates to fill Nipa Armbruster vacated seat. It was felt that the BOT will set interviews with all applicants. Trustees Mary, Tom O, and Tom D will attend the interviews, but all BOT members are welcome to attend.

TREASURER REPORT: (Alison Zero Jones)

The Financial Report of the MPL Board of Trustees was distributed for the September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting. The library's account transfers, vouchers, and deposits were reviewed, as well as the Board of Trustee's account balances, deposits, and payments.

Motion was made to accept the Financial Report of the MPL Board of Trustees for the September 8, 2025 regular meeting.

Motion: Alison Zero Jones

Second: Katie Corey

Unanimously Approved

It decided that the final reports create too much paper. It was felt we could reduce the amount that is printed by limiting it to the Financial Report and both of the Abstracts.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: (Katie Corey)

Some donor names were given to Katie to write thank you notes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee: (Lyla Grills)

The MPL 2026 Budget was given to The Town and followed up with Supervisor Moffitt. The benefits were still in flux and the amount of the Library budget may need to be increased because of this.

Policies Committee:

The Director will pick a couple of policies for review, possibly with the sustainability policy in mind.

Lyla will talk to The Friends at their next meeting to possibly set up an ad-hoc committee regarding the annual appeal for the endowment fund and anniversary celebration next June in conjunction with the BOT. The Friends have many members that could write a good annual appeal letter.

Long Range Plan Committee: (Tom Dooley)

Tom reviewed the Long-Range Plan. One item on the list was to

- Make reading a habit - Lyla felt that the item is complete with people in the habit of coming regularly after the pandemic.
- Improve efficiency – The Board thought they should wait for the new town leadership to work on this area.
- Using outdoor spaces - The library used many outdoor spaces this summer. The friends increased the outdoor space usage by buying Adirondack Chairs for the front and children's picnic tables for story time. The outdoor space is limited in the front by the size of the lot.

Tom O. Left the meeting.

- Reaching out to the high-density housing projects - The Library has a good relationship with Pinehurst and have had some events and outreach there. The Totiakton housing complex is harder to reach out to.
- Starting an endowment fund – This had been talked about previously.

Sustainable Library Initiative Committee: (Tom Dooley)

Tom gave a list of the 174 action items for the SLI program. Great creative forces for the SLI program are Emily English, a new hire Librarian Trainee, and Deb D., a clerk. Lyla will talk to the staff one-on-one and will find out their interest and abilities in SLI.

The Sustainability Policy needs to be written. The committee will email for consensus before the next meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT: (Lyla Grills)

The Library Director's Report was distributed and reviewed. The following items were discussed:

- A report for the Summer Reading Program 2025 written by Kelly was distributed. The SRP ended with the Kona Truck sponsored by the HF Rotary.
- The number of Library visit numbers were good in July and August. These numbers do not include programs that were held at outside venues.
- The Friends purchased three Tonie boxes with headphones and 41 Tonie "books". Lyla and Sue attended the Mendon Festival and displayed the new Tonies. Tonies are electronic boxes that are designed for age 3-8 that work with their figurines. If a figurine is placed on top of the box it will play a story or song.
- Matt and Emily E. used donated monies, that were restricted to be spent at Bleak House Books, toward adult and teen books including several new graphic novels. The owner of Bleak House wrote a Facebook post about the experience highlighting Matt and Emily.
- There is a new section of Adult Graphic Novels in the library.
- Carpets are cleaned and the driveway is sealed.
- CauseWave contacted Lyla after a quick survey and set up a meeting on October 8th at 1pm to consult with the Library on various initiatives.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.