

HMML Minutes 11/18/25

Meeting Called to Order: 7:03

In Attendance:

Libby Persons Trustee Vice Chair
Betsy McCombs Trustee Treasurer
Michelle Wheeler Trustee Secretary
Pam Tibbetts Selectperson

John Clark Trustee Chair
Ben Brown Library Director
Joan Harlow Member at Large

Secretary's report

Joan makes a motion to approve the minutes from 10/21/25, Libby seconds, all are in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Through the end of October the highest area of concern is maintenance and media and we haven't done floor stripping yet. At the moment Betsy has put in all of the November expenses and we have a little more than \$5000 left, if we take out yoga and cleaning, Eversource and a few other things we would have -\$400.

Ben has totaled up about \$1500 of copier money which can go back into lapsing so that puts us \$1000 in the positive. We can use some donated money. Carpet cleaning can happen in early 2026 and not come out of this year's budget.

Next year the cost of the yoga programming is going up so we'll need to estimate the costs of all programming and account for the fact that we're buying food for some of the events as part of the budgeting.

We have received about \$1600 in donated money for book purchases. We have been operating with the same amount of discretionary spending for at least three years and costs have increased so we may need to ask for an increase in our budget.

Joan makes a motion to approve the budget Libby seconds, all are in favor.

Director's report

We are up on attendance and digital use compared to October of last year. The Halloween party on 10/15 was very well attended with at least 110. The Block Party drew around 300 people and the library was open for the bathrooms. We are switching over to Ingram for books. We've signed up for the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium which we can use for Amazon Prime, discounts at Amazon business and discounts from other businesses. This membership gives free processing from Follett. Tracey Dwyer is working as a substitute.

Other business

HB 143 did pass but was so amended that it doesn't end applying to our library. HB 273 did pass effective 1/1/26 and Ben will put together our policy regarding records for minor children which will say that library records are private but parents can request the records for a minor child. Ben will write up the procedure for requesting the records and then we will come by and sign off on it prior to the first of the year. We've never had anyone request other people's library records.

Landscaping is done for the year. Patti thought if we could get a group together once a month during the growing season it would make a significant difference for the garden.

There will not be a December trustees meeting. The January and February 2026 meetings will be in the library.

Motion to adjourn at 7:38 by Joan, seconded by Libby, unanimously approved.

Michelle Wheeler Recording Secretary