

## HMML Minutes 9/16/25

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 PM

### **In Attendance:**

**Libby Persons** Trustee Vice Chair  
**Betsy McCombs** Trustee Treasurer  
**Michelle Wheeler** Trustee Secretary  
**Pam Tibbets** Selectman Rep

**John Clark** Trustee Chair  
**Ben Brown** Library Director

### **Not in Attendance:**

Joan Harlow

### **Secretary's report**

Betsy makes a motion to approve the minutes from 8/19/25, Libby seconds, all are in favor.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Betsy has sent an abbreviated budget report to Jake, she will send the extended version so Jake can make copies. Electricity has gone up significantly in July and August. Ben removed us from the town co-op, our usage was not much higher than last year but the delivery fees were so it didn't make sense for us to continue. So, electricity might be okay with hopefully lower rates. Maintenance

The media line is a concern because we reduced it to \$14,000. This year we have used 81% although the digital books were just paid and most of the passes as well. Kanopy has seen a lot more use this year which bumps up the price of this service and the price of Overdrive went up by 30% and Ben feels like next year it will be at least a 30% increase or more. We do get a lot of donations of money towards books, we can use donation money that is earmarked for books in this category.

Our current budget keeps us at the target of \$55,200. Our "top" number includes plans for the increase in salary, the 4% COLA.

Ben got a proposal from Leah Pacione to increase her yoga fees to \$30 per month more, increasing the yoga budget from \$5,160 to about \$5,520 for the year. That means 10% of our budget goes to yoga, although it is a well attended program. We had put another \$1000 in our budget for an increase in the price of programming.

\$675 for inspection of the sprinkler system at the library, lower than last year's inspection. Motor repair for the lift will be over \$2000 (from New England Lift). In order to pass the inspection in January we will need it. The trustees approve both costs.

We got donations from The Friends for \$1245.90 for the Summer Reading Program from the sale of bags. \$100 donation from the Scrabble group. Libby makes a motion to accept donations in the amount of \$1,345.90, Betsy seconds, all are in favor.

### **Director's report**

August 2024 and 2025 look similar in numbers. August is generally a slower month, summer reading is over.

We're going to start reopening Sundays on October 5th still from 12-4.

### **Other business**

John talked to Mark Vallone about HB 143. He has a plan to look into it. The bill has to do with restricting public access to a public space.

In landscaping news, John, Michelle and some of the Friends met with Patti to talk about the landscaping. An October 18th date is planned for additional weeding, some smothering of the soil for the winter to ready it for spring planting. Ben passes on that the Town Hall has had some complaints about the overgrown nature of the library gardens. John says, the garden is not going to be a formal garden, it is designed to be a natural pollinator friendly environment. We also spoke to Patti about taking out some of the volunteers that are popping up randomly and impacting the expected visual of the landscape.

On 10/25/25 from 10-12:30 is a regional trustee meeting at the Barrington Public Library. John plans on going.

The library Halloween party is on 10/15. The town Block Party is on 10/25 from 4-7. The library does plan on having a table at the Block Party rather than having events at the library. The community room will be open for the bathrooms.

Motion to adjourn at 7:42 by Betsy, seconded by Libby, unanimously approved.

Michelle Wheeler Recording Secretary