

Hamilton Memorial Library
Board of Trustees Public Meeting
Chester, MA 01011

Date: May 7, 2025
Time: 1:15PM
Place: Hamilton Memorial Library

MEETING MINUTES May7, 2025

PRESENT:

Trustees: Karen Savoy, Maryann Pease, Jane Sutton. Librarian Tammy Merenda, Assistant Maureen Suriner

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes from April 2, 2025 Trustee Meeting submitted by Jane Sutton were accepted and signed with minor changes as noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Maryann and Tammy plan to review financials again before end of fiscal year. Town accountant has been helpful by sending reports and answering questions. Tammy states she is more confident about handling the budget. She plans to reach out to other libraries about how to use the Automation Account funds (\$729)...perhaps a shredder or a more 'personal use' printer.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Chester On Track: Our new tent for the Bake and Book Sale will be placed next to the School St. Memorial. Jane, Maryann, and one staff person will be present. People will be invited to go into the library where there will be many more books to choose from and perhaps visit the Mineral Museum. John Marge has volunteered to be at the museum from 12-2PM. The kids "movement" programing with Laurel will be at the ball field.

Friends Group: Tammy knows of several people who may be interested and will try to coordinate a meeting. Perhaps also considering Trustee position needed.

Grants: The Cultural Council grant will be deposited in the Donations Account. The "Small and Rural Communities Grant" will be deposited in The Donation "turn over" account (earmarked for library).

Vacation/sick days: Tammy and Maureen will continue to look for extra help. Perhaps network with other towns' library staff. There was discussion of the Trustees volunteering to help occasionally for a few hours. Those present were agreeable.

Potential Increase in hours for Tammy: ?Will it pass in Town Meeting/FY26 budget from 20 to 30 work hrs (without requiring benefits). Tammy is seeking school loan forgiveness, therefore needs more working hours to qualify.

Summer Reading / Music Program: Begins soon! Lots of fun with a theme "Level Up". The library has been advertising these Summer offerings.

Screens/Blinds: Still getting estimates. Most likely will get same as CDC used.

Hamilton Memorial Library
Board of Trustees Public Meeting
Chester, MA 01011

Date: April 2, 2025
Time: 3:00PM
Place: Hamilton Memorial Library

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 2, 2025

PRESENT:

Trustees: Karen Savoy, Linda Koske, Jane Sutton. Librarian, Tammy Merenda. Assistant, Maureen Suriner

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes from 12/10/25 Trustee Meeting prepared and read by trustee Jane Sutton were accepted and signed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

All accounts are stable. See printed Financial Report 4/2/25. Tammy commented that CWMARS \$400 yearly fee would potentially be as high as \$12,000(!) if Federal Grants were no longer available!!

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Monthly Movie Night has been very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Upcoming interesting events: Speaker re: How to Tidy Your Clutter. Touch A Truck. Local author/speaker Steve Cormier, with music to follow.

Unfortunately ~~Ingram~~ is no longer a viable source of books. Our only source currently is B&T. Tammy will discuss with Town Administrator the possibility of using Amazon for book purchases.

Tammy will be graduating in May and beginning MLIS in May or September at URI. She will be completing a library internship probably in Westfield M+F, 10-19hrs/wk. Tammy is looking for scholarship sources or debt forgiveness programs.

Staffing: We have a new intern, ~~Jason~~, a senior from Gateway High School and Denise through Senior Workoff program. Both have been very helpful.

Library of Things: Another librarian will come in to help with ideas.

Blinds: Need replacing. Tammy is getting estimates.

Tech items: ancestry.com is no longer available to the library without fees, therefore we've discontinued it; Our website is back up and running!

Bathroom issues: HCDC has given access to BOTH back hallway bathrooms. One of them has a small area we can use for storage. Offensive odor is still present occasionally.

Grants: Tammy has received checks for two grants: Chester Cultural Counsel \$1000 (use for programing, etc.); Libraries Transforming Communities Accessibility Small and Rural Communities Grant \$10,000 (mostly to be used for improving our 'library use' accessibility to all patrons with any type of disability). Tammy will be having small community conversations about the grant and asking for input/ideas to make good use of the grant.