

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

DATE: June 11, 2025
TIME: 1:15PM
PLACE: Hamilton Memorial Library Board

MEETING MINUTES: June 11, 2025

PRESENT:

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes from May 7, 2025 read, accepted, and signed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tammy reports that the Cultural Council Grant and the Accessibility Grant accounts have been established. Our Salary account has been overextended, therefore the needed amount (\$640.58) will be taken out of the State Aid Account. There was discussion about using the remaining amounts in the Expense and Automation accounts (FY26), perhaps for an iPad or Lap top for use in the library only.

Chester On Track donations totaled \$720. (Books and baked goods)

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Summer reading program, "Level Up at Your Library" begins July 3rd-August 9th with many fun events: Music programming with Ukulele lessons (8 Ukuleles donated and purchased by Jack Waldheim of Middlefield). Song writing workshop for teens and adults. LEGO week...and more... Ending with Riverside Reptiles August 9th.

Our website has been updated.

Our apple trees will finally be planted June 12th. Macintosh Apples!!

Tammy reports that our volunteer, Jake, has been exceptional and may be able to work more hours and on Saturday. She suggested hourly pay of \$15.50 (from State Aid Account). This was voted on and passed by board.

FY26 salaries for Tammy (\$21/hr) and Maureen (\$18.68/hr) were approved by the board.

Tammy will take vacation week of June 23rd. Trustees volunteered to help Maureen during weekdays and Jake will cover Saturday.

Tammy begins her Library and Information Studies in the Fall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chester On Track was very successful this year both financially (as reported) and successfully encouraged patrons to visit inside the library and the Mineral Museum. We all agreed to give a \$25 thank you gift card to John Marge for helping in the museum.

HCDC is still planning an Open House in the building this Fall, but no details yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

A formal Librarian contract was signed by Tammy (19hrs for 52wks).

There is one Trustee position open and an opportunity to form another Friends of the Library group. We all will actively discuss the positions with friends and neighbors. No formal plan at this time. More discussion to take place at future meetings.

Jane reported on her research regarding our Museum's Cherokee bowl.. With the help of John Marge, Jane has contacted The Cherokee County Historical Museum in Murphy, NC. She spoke to the director, who then sent photos of their museum. Photos of our bowl were then sent to the director so that their Archaeologist could examine it. After receiving and reviewing the photos, he agreed it would be a wonderful addition to their museum collection. He wasn't sure of the age or any details just by seeing photos. John Marge felt it would be a good idea to gift it to them and return it to that land. All trustees agreed it would be a good idea to make those arrangements. Per John Garvey, the library should make sure there are no documents stating circumstances of the Gifting of the Mineral Collection that involve the bowl. Jane and Karen will check through documents for any of that information.

There was a short discussion about an idea of developing an all-inclusive "Museum Day" with all museums in Chester being open at the same time on a specific weekend. This could potentially bring more interested people/families into Chester. Tammy and Jane will begin researching this. More about this at later meetings.

Results of Yearly election of officers:

Chairman- Karen Savoy

Secretary- Jane Sutton

Treasurer- MaryAnn Pease

OTHER BUSINESS:

Unfortunately, just prior to this meeting, Trustee Chelsea Girtton verbally threatened with harm, Tammy, the Trustees, and the library. The incident was reported to Chester Police Chief, who will serve Chelsea with a "No Trespass Order". Police Chief will encourage Chelsea to continue to try and find the library's 'Secretary's Notebook' that she had in her possession.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 2:15PM

Karen Savoy
Jane Sutton
9/17/25