

## Minutes of the Board of Library Trustees, Public Library of Brookline

A hybrid meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was convened on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:15pm

Present: K. Livingston, C. Chanyasulkit, J. Goleman, K. Hung, C. Lohe, F. Silver, J. Vanderkay, M. Vogt, S. Zelkha.

Absent: M. Burstein, J. Margolis, B. Bloomenthal

Also present: Interim Library Director, D. Savin; Assistant Interim Director for Administration, R. Brennan; Executive Assistant to the Library Director, C. Artavia; Library Friend Member, E. Franco; Head of Reference, J. Steytler.

- I. Motion to convene by Livingston; Goleman seconds. All present vote yea, 6:15 p.m.
- II. Comments from the Chair
  - Livingston hands out a timeline of events covering the thirteen months of leadership by the interim and assistant directors. J. Steytler presents a thank you card from the Library Staff to Interim Director D. Savin and Interim Assistant Director R. Brennan and their team for their service during the search for a new Library Director. C. Chanyasulkit presents a gift card to thank the whole Administrative Team. Savin and Brennan say a few words reflecting on their time in their interim positions. Savin says everyone is looking forward to the arrival of the new director and thanks the Board.
- III. Comments from the Public - n/a
- IV. Secretary's Report
  - Minutes - Livingston makes a motion to approve the December 2025 minutes; Lohe seconds. The Board unanimously votes to approve the minutes.
  - Correspondence - Judith Goleman passed around a note from the PBL Pride Committee to the Board, thanking them for their support.
  - Other - n/a
- V. Treasurer's Report - Lohe reports that funds are solvent; details to follow as the Investment Committee meets the following week.
  - Savin suggests that BOLT consider creating an Assistant Treasurer position so that someone is in training for this complex role.
- VI. Library Director's Report
  - Savin presents the December report:

1. Senior Center office hours are now being offered at Putterham.
  2. The budget is 46% spent which is slightly under (should be 50% spent down).
  3. Staff Updates:
    - a) Resignations: LAIII from Putt Sebastien S.
    - b) Promotions/Hires: Eric Maki promoted to Lib I; 5 PTLAs hired
  4. Vogt asks about the Cataloging Services and Cleaning budgets. Savin answers.
  5. Vogt asks about the new library card policy, saying she is concerned that it will discourage people from checking out items. Savin replies that PLB has had a looser policy than other libraries, especially since Covid. Expectations are now being set so that each branch of PLB has the same checkout policy. Short discussion about the new policy including carrying your card or card number with you and children checking out items on their friends' accounts. The Trustees suggest that more signs be posted to help patrons adapt to the rule change.
- Statistical - n/a
  - Other - n/a

#### VII. Trustee Committee Reports

- Screening Committee
  1. Officially shuttered and closed; work completed when the finalists for library director were selected.
- Trustee Development Committee
  1. Vogt presented slides from the Trustee Development Committee Continuing Education Series on Library Staff and Trustee Relations. This is followed by some discussion.
- Staff Appreciation Committee
  1. Chanyasulkit briefly describes the New Year gift baskets delivered to each library branch. Expressions of gratitude and discussion of how else to support staff follow. Savin says the Friends give about \$20k each year for staff development. E. Franco says the Friends also hold a staff appreciation luncheon (Valentine's Day).

#### VIII. Old Business

- Vanderkay asks if an idea previously discussed regarding the screening of “The Librarians” might be reconsidered. Brief discussion ends in the decision not to pursue since the film’s release date is too soon for planning to occur.

IX. New Business

- New Director Onboarding: Livingston and Savin have divided the onboarding content into three categories. Savin will be responsible for communicating content in categories #1 and #2; Livingston, #3. The categories are as follows:
  1. Management, library facilities, and staff
  2. Town governance and committees
  3. Orientation to the Board as a working partner. (To begin, committee chairs will write a 1-page summary of their committees’ accomplishments in the preceding 6 months and present these reports in February for the benefit of the new director, J. Mercurio.)
- K. Hung lets the Board and Library staff know that Town meetings will soon be required to be uploaded to the BIG website (the Brookline Interactive Group) within 10 business days of the meeting so they will be more publicly accessible and easier to find.

X. Remarks for the Good of the Order - n/a

XI. Adjourn -- Goleman makes a motion to adjourn; Chanyasukit seconds. All present vote yea. The meeting is adjourned at 7:28pm.

Attested by Judith Goleman, Secretary

Feb. 3, 2026

