

Jacob Edwards Board of Trustees Minutes

October 28, 2025

Attendees: Mary Ellen Blake, James Dyer, Elizabeth Golz (via phone), Janet Jenkins, Bernadette Meade, Richard Whitney (via phone), Elizabeth Gendreau (Children's Librarian, staff designee)

I. Call to Order

- a. James Dyer called the meeting to order at 12:14pm.
- b. Suggested motion by James Dyer to amend agenda to move New Business to beginning of meeting. Mel Blake made such motion with second by Janet Jenkins. So, voted, unanimously by all present.

II. New Business

- a. Books and Materials
 - i. Revisiting Former Director Margaret Morrissey's request for monies for books and materials from Board. Mel Blake made motion to approve in the amount of \$45,000.00 with second by Janet Jenkins. So, voted, unanimously by all present
- b. Library Director Search
 - i. Janet Jenkins made the motion to forward Pam Chenevert to town HR, as the selection of the trustees to be the next library director; seconded by Mel Blake. So, voted, unanimously by all present. James Dyer will notify town of decision.

III. Approval of September 23,2025 minutes

- a. Motion made by Mel Blake with second by Janet Jenkins. So, voted, unanimously by all present.

IV. Financial Report

- a. In the absence of Gary Bridgman there is no report

V. Chess Park

- a. Bernadette Meade reported that JEL chess park website is being updated. She had a very successful phone conference with the CEO of MEGA CHESS company who shared helpful information and will be making chess set donations. Fundraising is beginning.
- b. Southbridge Chess Club will resume sessions in January 2026.
- c. James Dyer questioned effect of new Library Director on project, Bernadette is confident project will stay on track to successful completion.

VI. Chair's Report

- a. James Dyer showed the dedication plaque for Margaret Morrissey for the library's pollinator garden. Bernadette will work with Elizabeth Gendreau and DPW for its permanent placement.

VII. Library Report

- a. Elizabeth Gendreau shared that library is functioning well under this interim arrangement. Town Hall has proven helpful and collaborative when needed. Jillian Ciapocha is keeping MUNIS account with town up to date.
- b. There have been multiple successful adult and children's programs with good attendance like 26 students attending after school dominos program and 40 people attending the Poop Museum presentation.
- c. The Ginger Bread Making Program will be offered again this year with support of the FoJEL.
- d. All cultural council grants have been processed – await decisions.
- e. The library website has been updated.
- f. The children's room will be interviewing to replace library aide (10-hour position) – three applicants so far.
- g. Fire panel has been updated.
- h. Repairs made to elevation with provisional pass on inspection with full approval once DPW replaced upstairs calling button.
- i. There was an incident outside the southern library exit on 9/23/25 after midnight of a community resident being physically assaulted. Police investigation ongoing. In response, more outside security cameras will be installed.
- j. At the town's agreement the library will not be open the Saturday after Thanksgiving and Christmas for this calendar year.

VIII. Executive Session

- a. Not needed

Mel Blake motioned to end meeting, Janet Jenkins seconded. So, voted, unanimously by all present. Meeting concluded at 1:06pm

Minutes submitted by Bernadette Meade