



## Library Committee Meeting

### Minutes

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

Main Library, William Munroe Special Collections Reading Room

### Attended

Committee: Laura Klein (Chair), Scott Akehurst-Moore, Tom Claflin, Sara Pacelle, Pam Ressler, Jim Vahey and Mary Wren vanderWilden; Associate members: Julie Hirschler and Teresa Hubscher-Younger.

Also in Attendance: Emily Smith (Director), Jessie Hopper (Assistant Curator)

### Public Comment

None.

### Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from December 2, 2026 meeting and voted unanimously to approve them.

### Library Director's Report

The complete Director's report is available online: <https://concordlibrary.org/about/about-us/directors-report>.

Emily highlighted:

- Emily and Scott announced the new Writer in Residence for 2026, Danielle Bradley, sharing the press release prepared by the Library Corporation. There will be a reception to welcome Danielle on Jan 22, 2026 at 6pm and all Library Committee members, and the public, are invited to attend.

### Ongoing Business

#### Update on Strategic Planning

- Emily reminded the Committee about the upcoming Strategic Planning Workshops: Amanda from Fast Forward Libraries will engage the library staff on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, then host a combined workshop for Trustees and Committee Members on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm

#### Update on FY27 Budget

- The draft FY27 budget being proposed at Town Meeting includes funding for the Library to be open on Sundays and a small increase to the Library Materials budget. The Library's budget is within the Finance Committee's 2.5% guidelines for FY27.
- The Library received the first state aid deposit (IMLS). The library continues to meet all state reporting requirements for funding and is certified for the FY26 year. There was discussion on the effect of federal funding on databases provided by the State. The Minuteman Library Network is working on offering the Boston Globe now that the State is no longer able to do so.

## **New Business**

### **Presentation & Tour of Special Collections with Assistant Curator, Jessie Hopper**

- Jessie gave the committee a presentation about the Library's William Munroe Special Collections including staffing, funding, collection development and accessions, hours, access, holdings (including artwork), and the unique public-private relationship the Library Corporation and the Town.
  - Jessie highlighted several unique pieces from the collection, including several surveys created by Henry David Thoreau and a manuscript from Louisa May Alcott, and provided a brief tour of the vault.
- Vote

All members voted to adjourn at 7:30PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday February 7, 2026, to be held in person at 1 pm in the Goodwin Forum and hybrid via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Akehurst-Moore