



Library Committee Meeting
Minutes
Saturday, February 7, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.
Main Library, Goodwin Forum

Attended

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

Library Trustees: Sherry Litwack (President), Jeff Adams, Ted Hanselman, Pam Gannon.

Also in Attendance: Emily Smith (Director), Ricky Sirois (Assistant Director), Amanda Standerfer (Fast Forward Libraries).

Public Comment

None.

Ongoing Business

Strategic Planning Workshop with Fast Forward Libraries

- Introductions

Consultant Amanda Standerfer from Fast Forward Libraries welcomed everyone, introduced herself and asked the Committee Members and Trustees to introduce themselves as well.

Amanda presented the workshop's structure and goals. She reviewed the strategic planning process, including three phases: learning, dreaming, and doing (implementation). Amanda reviewed the framework for the strategic plan, which includes considering updates to the vision and mission statements, outlining strategic directions, and a list of actions to implement those strategic directions. Emily reminded the joint boards that the Library is required to have a current Strategic Plan on file with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) in order to be eligible for state grant opportunities. It is not required to qualify for State Aid or for certification.

- Review of the Learning Report

Amanda presented a comprehensive "Learning Report" that included the results of the library's community survey, focus groups and interviews during the public engagement portion of the process, as well as other demographics and data. Amanda highlighted strong library statistics with significant increases in services over the past five year. She also noted a 98.6% satisfaction rate from survey respondents, and key findings about user preferences and needs. The joint boards then broke out into groups to discuss the Learning Report and any questions they might have.

- Strategic Directions & Areas of Focus

The meeting then focused on analyzing the data in the Learning Report. The conversation ended with participants being asked to identify three priority areas for the library's strategic plan over the next 3-

5 years. Amanda synthesized these priorities into broad categories: community engagement, programming, technology, facilities, and staff development. Amanda noted that these priorities matched those identified by the Staff at the previous day's workshop. The group also identified that issues of accessibility (including access and inclusion) should be woven throughout all initiatives.

- Vision & Mission

Finally, Amanda led a discussion of the Library's current vision and mission statements. She asked the joint boards to provide feedback to be considered for updating these statements to be sure they correctly reflect the library's unique role and purpose in the community.

- Conclusion & Next Steps in Process

Amanda provided an overview of the next steps in the process, including a request for feedback on today's workshop via a survey. A draft of the final Strategic Plan will be ready for the Library Committee meeting to consider as part of the Committee meeting scheduled for April 7th.

All members voted to adjourn at 4:00PM. The next Library Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Trustees Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Smith