

Abbott Memorial Library

Board of Trustees Minutes

August 18, 2025

The August 18 meeting took place in-person at Abbott Memorial Library and began at 7:07pm

Present: Cory Smith, Jim Robinson, Betsy Rhodes, Mary Worrell, Jocelyn Randles and Heather Durkel. Doug Abbott was absent.

The agenda was approved.

The June 2025 minutes were approved.

Reports

Librarian: *Cory Smith*

- Abbott Book Club:
 - 7 people attended a discussion of *Emma* by Jane Austen in early July.
 - 9 community members travelled to Hanover to meet with Jay Satterfield, Head of Rauner Library Special Collections & Archives. Participants learned about 19th century book publishing in England and toured the Jane Austen exhibit. Special thanks to Jenny and Jay Satterfield for setting up this trip.
- Summer Reading Program:
 - 27 children signed up for the summer reading program
 - The Abbott Library held craft programs on 3 Tuesdays in June/ July. After each program, the craft was continued at the craft table until the next program.
 - 2 children & 2 adults made felted foxtrail balls
 - 10 children & 8 adults made sock puppets
 - 11 children & 10 adults made rainbow scratch boards

- Special thanks to Jocelyn and Mary for setting up and running the craft projects.
- Thanks to Sue for knitting some cute hedgehogs as giveaways.
- Kids are starting to bring back their summer reading logs and receive gift cards to Yankee Bookshop in Woodstock.
- Cory attended a Windsor County Library meeting in July. A library from the state reassured the group that Vermont Libraries will receive federal money for the next federal fiscal year, which for Abbott, directly supports the interlibrary loan courier service and summer reading program. They are also expecting to run the HUD federal grant application later this fall.
 - This grant will focus on small, rural libraries.
- Artsfest:
 - Artistree is planning an event called Artfest on Sunday, September 21 from 11-3. They are wondering if the library would like to participate. Last year they held this event on a Saturday. The library was open and we offered an outdoor craft and book sale.
 - Conversation ensued about whether The Abbott Library would participate in Artsfest. Ideas included a story walk, book sale & signage about upcoming library events.

Building and Grounds: *Betsy Rhodes*

- The streambank restoration is going well.
 - The native plants which were planted earlier in the summer are establishing nicely.
 - The large rocks that were placed earlier in the year have diffused water to prevent further erosion.
- Chimney repair:
 - Betsy has not been able to connect with the chimney repair person. The chimney repair is not an emergency. Conversation ensued as to whether we should reach out to an alternative mason.
- Fuel prebuy:
 - Betsy lead a discussion about fuel prebuy options for the 2025/ 26 season
- Air filters:

- Betsy will purchase new filters for the Library air exchanger which helps mitigate radon.

Outreach: *Doug Abbott*

- Doug was absent

Treasurer: *Mary Worrell*

- The board reviewed the treasurer report
- Mary is now able to access the Vanguard investment account online

Development: *Jocelyn Randles*

- Jocelyn has been cleaning up the library's annual appeal mailing list by deleting the names and addresses of those who have moved out of town, etc.
- Jocelyn will begin working on the letter for the annual appeal soon.

Chair: *Jim Robinson & Mary Worrell*

- The Trustees were unable to gather for a summer picnic, so Mary has invited everyone to her house on December 15th. The Trustees will have a quick meeting and then enjoy a potluck.

New Business _____

Summer Moth

- The Summer Moth will take place Friday, September 5th at 7pm
- Theme to be announced

Meeting with Hunter / Accessibility

- The accessibility working group met with Hunter Ulf on August 18th
- Hunter provided the group with two options for accessibility:
 - Option 1:
 - An enclosed lift to access the main building
 - Option 2:

- An enclosed lift, community room and accessible restroom
- Discussion regarding next steps ensued

Fall programs

- No Strings Marionette Puppet Show, Saturday, November 1st
- The Trustees brainstormed additional fall programming ideas/ offerings:
 - Charades
 - Cookbooks
 - Town history, town elders telling stories

Book club

- The library will send an email to past book club participants to gather suggestions for books.
- Aiming for October for the first meeting
- ~20 people were engaged 2024/ 25

The next meeting will be held at the library September 15 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm

Respectfully submitted by Heather Durkel, Secretary