

# Abbott Memorial Library

## Board of Trustees Minutes

November 17, 2025

The November 17 meeting took place in-person at Abbott Memorial Library and began at 7:04pm

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

The agenda was approved.

The October minutes were approved.

### *Reports*

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Librarian: *Cory Smith*

- BOOK CLUB
  - 12 people borrowed the book, and 7 people attended the discussion on October 28. Upcoming books and dates are: *This is Happiness* by Niall Williams: Tuesday, December 2; *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, Tuesday, January 6; and *James* by Percival Everett (and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain for extra credit) on Tuesday, February 3.
- HALLOWEEN
  - Drop in Halloween on October 28 & 30 was a lot of fun. 7 adults and 8 children came in for games, crafts and treats.
- PUPPET SHOW
  - 60 people attended a wonderful performance of *Handsome and Gretel*. Thank you to Jocelyn, Heather & Betsy for helping to clean, set up & take down at the Pomfret Town Hall.
- GRANTS

- The courier grant report and application for the next grant were submitted on October 31.
- UPCOMING EVENTS:
  - Lantern Walk: Thursday, December 4 at 4pm
  - Charades: Thursday, December 11 at 6:30pm
  - Fiber Group: Will begin again soon, though we are still deciding on the day and time
- COMPUTERS
  - Cory is currently shopping for new computers & monitors
- HOLIDAY HOURS
  - The library will be closed on Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving and on Thursday, December 25th & Thursday January 1st during the holiday season.

Outreach: *Doug Abbott*

- Doug was absent

Building and Grounds: *Betsy Rhodes*

- CHIMNEY
  - The chimney repair is still outstanding. We may begin pursuing other options.
- KNOX Box
  - The KNOX Box will be installed on November 18th on the back door of the library. This location has been approved by the Teago Fire Department.
- WINTERIZING
  - Betsy and Cory are in the process of winterizing the library.

Treasurer: *Mary Worrell*

- BUDGET REVIEW
  - Due to a shortfall in funds needed for operating expenses, we have started using our reserve funds for this purpose. A discussion ensued as to whether this is good practice.
  - Conversation ensued regarding which appropriation to submit

- The board agrees to ask the town for an additional \$2K which will cover a portion of our operating expense shortfall.

Development: *Jocelyn Randles*

- ANNUAL APPEAL
  - The 2025 Annual Appeal went out
  - 2024 90 people contributed to the Annual Appeal
  - Jocelyn proposes that we trim the list to save time & money
    - Those who have given before
    - Active patrons
    - Those who are new to the community
- FUNDRAISING
  - Jocelyn brought up the possibility of establishing a ‘Friends of the Library’ to begin fundraising for the library

Chair: *Jim Robinson & Mary Worrell*

- ACCESSABILITY
  - Heather will reach out to Kathleen Dolan regarding a survey for Artistree / Abbott
- THOMAS WARE PORTRAITS
  - Thomas Ware portraits are also at the Woodstock History Center on loan. The portraits are deteriorating. The History Center broached the subject of being gifted the portraits so they could care for them.

The next meeting will be held at Mary’s house on December 15, 2025 at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm

Respectfully submitted by Heather Durkel, Secretary