

Abbott Memorial Library

Board of Trustees Minutes

January 19th, 2026

The January 19th 2026 meeting took place in person at the library and began at 7:06pm.

Present: Cory Smith, Jim Robinson, Betsy Rhodes, Mary Worrell & Jocelyn Randles

Absent: Heather Durkel and Doug Abbott.

The agenda was reviewed and adopted with minor additions.

The Dec 16th Minutes were reviewed and adopted with minor revisions.

Reports

Cory Smith (Librarian) December report:

- Abbott Book Club: 12 people attended the discussion of This is Happiness, rescheduled to Tue. Dec. 9 due to a snowstorm on the 2nd.
- The Lantern Walk: 5 children and 4 adults joined us for stories indoors followed by a walk out back with homemade lanterns. The squally day settled down in time for a walk through fresh snow and up a small hill where we could see the neighborhood lights and the full moon rising over the ridge. It was beautiful. Additionally, through the holiday season we had a craft table set up to make balloon lanterns.
- Charades: 5 of us gathered for a fun evening of charades on Thur. Dec. 11. The categories were books and movies. We also enjoyed homemade snacks, desserts, and eggnog.
- The HUD grant has been announced. The application deadline is Tue. March 31, 2026. This grant is aimed at helping current Vermont public libraries with critical repairs for things such as HVAC, envelope, structural, and access to existing buildings. The minimum grant award will be \$50K and maximum \$400K, with most grant awards in the \$100K - \$400K range.
- The library was closed on Thursdays December 25 and January 1.

Cory Smith (Librarian) January report:

- Abbott Book Club: 13 people attended the discussion of Lessons in Chemistry on Tue. Jan. 6, a half hour early because of an incoming storm. Our next meeting will take place on Tue. Feb. 3 at 6 pm for the book James by Percival Everett.
- The fiber & craft group will once again take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We are going to try meeting later, from 4:30 – 6 pm, beginning tomorrow, Jan. 20.
- We will be setting up a Valentine's craft table inside the library and take-home craft bags for the month of February.

Betsy Rhodes (Building and Grounds)

- Mary restored the missing glass in the front door.
- Casey installed the Knox Box, although the Fire Department do not yet have a key.
- Dead River is our new propane provider and they have been delivering in a timely manner.
- There has been no movement on the chimney repair.

- We need to store the picnic furniture and Betsy will follow up with Doug on storage options.

Jocelyn Randles (Development):

- Appeal donations this year amount to \$8,865. There are 73 donors so far, eight of which are new. Last year there were more donations in February and March and so we hope to exceed last year's total (\$10,200).

Doug Abbott (Outreach) Absent

Mary Worrell (Chair and Treasurer)

- The Income and Expense report and Investment accounts were reviewed.
- There was discussion on the restrictions that apply to each of the four investment funds.
- We need two new trustees next year. Eligible candidates have not been forthcoming and there was discussion on who could be recruited.

Old Business:

- Kathleen Dolan responded to Heather's inquiry about a survey and plans to look for the Artistree site survey to share with us.
- We will form a working group to decide whether and how to apply for the HUD grant available for repairs to Vermont Libraries.
- Thanks to Mary, Cory, Betsy, and Jenny for creating and submitting the 2025 year-end library reports to the town.

New Business:

- The librarian annual evaluation will be scheduled for March.
- The library hopes to set up a Friends group for fundraising purposes and non-profit status (501c3). We are going to wait until we have filled the board vacancies.
- Options were discussed for new programs and we are going to pursue a Moth Storytelling event (March), Trash and Recycling (February), and Winter Wildlife Tracking.

Next meeting will be at the library on February 16th at 7pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm

Respectfully Submitted by Jocelyn Randles