

Abbott Memorial Library

Board of Trustees Minutes

March 16, 2026

The March 16 meeting took place in-person at Abbott Memorial Library and began at – pm

Present: Mary Worrell, Jim Robinson, Jocelyn Randles, Cory Smith and Heather Durkel.

The agenda was approved.

The February minutes were approved.

Reports

Librarian: *Cory Smith*

- **Abbott Book Club:**

- 12 people attended book club in February to discuss *James* by Percival Everett and 13 in March (on a Monday to avoid conflict with Town Election day) for *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 7th at 6pm to discuss *Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Sylvia Moreno-Garcia. Our book for May will be *A Walk in the Park* by Kevin Fedarko.

- **Fiber & Craft Group:**

- 6 (5 adults and 1 child) people joined the Fiber & Craft group on Tuesday, February 17. The group meets the third Tuesday of the month from 4:30 - 6pm.

- **Tracks & Trails:**

- 38 people came out to learn about animals (tracks and trails) from local tracker John Barnes of Barnard. It was a lot of fun with slides, samples,

good questions, and snacks. Special thanks to Betsy Rhodes, Kate Reeves, and John for thoughtfully putting this program together.

- **Moth Storytelling:**

- Moth-style storytelling is taking place Friday, March 20 at 7pm. Mark Binder will host, and the theme is “Fresh Starts”

- **Recycling Presentation:**

- Andy Sherer, from the solid waste management district, will present a recycling program at the library on Thursday, April 16 at 6:30pm.

- **Crafts:**

- For school vacation weeks, the library set out 3 winter craft projects: Valentines, Chinese New Year Fire Horse, and Yarn Wrapped Owl. Kids either made them at the library craft table or placed the supplies in a bag to take and make at home.

- **Courier Grant:**

- We received the courier grant in January. Cory submitted the summer reading program grant application in February. Cory is still working on the public library report and will submit it this week (the week of March 16).

Building and Grounds

- Betsy is creating a seasonal calendar with tasks
- Jim will take over the Building and Grounds position
- Cory is working on clearing out the culvert that goes under the pathway to the library.

Development: *Jocelyn Randles*

- **Annual Appeal:**

- \$10,065 has come in thus far. There have been 80 donations, 10 of which are new
- In 2025, the appeal raised \$10,200. There were 92 donations and 14 were new
- All thank you notes have been sent out

Treasurer: *Mary Worrell*

- The board reviewed the income and expense report ending February 2026

Outreach

- Heather will take over the Outreach position

Chair: *Mary Worrell*

- **Federal Hud Grant Application:**
 - For immediate needed repairs on the existing building ranging from \$50,000 - \$400,000
 - Most necessary repair for the library is the furnace
 - Ottaquechee Plumbing came to the library and will provide a quote for replacing the furnace with either oil or propane and instal a heat pump
 - Projects must be completed by the end of 2028
- **Candidates for Library Board:**
 - There are two candidates for the library board: Katie Brickner and Jan Salstrom. They will both attend our April meeting.
- **Thomas Ware Paintings:**
 - Mary has been in touch with Laura Lee, a conservator located in Brattleboro. For \$150 she will travel to Woodstock and look at the paintings. She will provide the library with an estimate and will tell us what the paintings may need and how much restoration they may need.
 - Mary has also reached out to 2 additional conservators, VT Art Care and Emily from Philip Conservation, but has not heard back.
- **250th Celebration:**
 - The Library has been asked to participate in an October 4th celebration. Discussion ensued as to ways the library could participate.

Action Steps _____

Heather: Follow up with Kathleen Dolan regarding the most recent Artistree survey.

The next meeting will be held at the library April 20, 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm

Respectfully submitted by Heather Durkel, Secretary