

Abbott Memorial Library

Board of Trustees Minutes

April 20, 2026

The April 20 meeting took place in-person at Abbott Memorial Library and began at 7:12 pm

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

The agenda was approved.

The March minutes were approved.

Reports

Librarian: *Cory Smith*

- **Abbott Book Club:**
 - 11 people attended our discussion of *Gods of Jade and Shadow* in early April. Our next book is nonfiction, *A Walk in the Park* by Kevin Fedarko, which will be discussed on Tuesday May 5 at 6 pm. This will be followed by a memoir, *Memorial Days* by Geraldine Brooks on Tuesday June 2 at 6 pm. The book club will take a break for the summer.
- **Public Library Report**
 - Submitted late March
 - Both electronic & physical circulation increased
- **Fiber & Craft Group**
 - 4 people joined the fiber & craft group on March 21. The group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 4:30-6pm.
- **Moth Storytelling**

- Moth-style Storytelling took place on Friday, March 20 with 14 people attending. Thanks to Mark Binder for hosting and Betsy Rhodes for helping with publicity.
- **Recycling Program**
 - Andy Scherer, from the solid waste management district, presented a recycling program at the library on Thursday, April 16. 8 enthusiastic recyclers attended. We have handouts that will be shared with the town office. Thanks to Betsy, Jenny, and Jan for their help with this informative program.
- **Kids Programing**
 - The craft table in the children's room is set up with a yarn and paint craft
 - We've been awarded the summer reading program grant for \$350
- **250th Vermont Humanities**
 - Vermont Humanities reopened applications for Vermont 250 Speakers Bureau talks. We are considering a program that focuses on Vermont Samplers. It would need to be held at the town office, a building with an accessible entrance and restroom.
- **Computer Update**
 - New computers and monitors have arrived and will be set up in the next couple weeks.

Building and Grounds: *Jim Robinson*

- **Picnic Table**
 - Mary and Jim will coordinate retrieving the library picnic table
- **Lawn Mowing**
 - Dave Pearsons mows the library lawn. Mary will confirm that he will mow the library lawn again this summer.
- **Furnace / HVAC System**
 - Ottaquechee Heating & Plumbing dropped off a quote for review
- **Chimney repair**
 - Betsy has emailed Mary about Building and Grounds details including Chimney Repair

Development: *Jan Salstrom*

- Jan and Jocelyn will connect to discuss the role of Development

Treasurer: *Mary Worrell*

- **Friends Group**
 - We are discussing starting a volunteer 'Friends Group' so the Library can accept donations as a (501c3) which would be able to accept electronic donations on behalf of the library.
- Mary will circulate the updated income/expense report via email and invites comments or questions.

Outreach: *Heather Durkel*

- Heather & Cory will meet April 29th to discuss Outreach

Chair: *Jocelyn Randles*

New Business _____

Covered Bridges half marathon volunteers:

- First Sunday in June (June 7) - the Trustees will volunteer from 8am-11am
- The Library receives \$1k for volunteering
- Locations: High Pasture Road, Cloudland Road, Otis Hill Road and at the top of the hill above the Taftsville Bridge
- Mary confirmed with the Covered Bridge Half Marathon that The Trustees will volunteer, but has not received additional details.

Thomas Ware painting conservation

- Cory & Mary went to the Woodstock History Center to meet with, Laura Le, a conservator and view 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.

Summer programs

- Cory and Heather will discuss summer programming

Update Safety Procedures

- Mary will update this with new Trustee names and contact information

Window washing volunteers

- Jocelyn & Mary will help wash windows Monday, May 11

Open Meeting Law

- As Trustees we will need to review a video from The League of Vermont Cities and Towns on the Open Meeting Law to ensure we are following procedure

Action Steps

ALL:

- Read through Betsys' email on Building and Grounds. To be discussed at the May meeting.
- View the video from The League of Vermont Cities and Towns on the Open Meeting Law

Upcoming Events

- Book Group: *A Walk in the Park* by Kevin Fedarko, which will be discussed on Tuesday May 5 at 6 pm.
- Book Group: *Memorial Days* by Geraldine Brooks on Tuesday June 2 at 6 pm.
- Covered Bridges Half Marathon: June 7
- Town-Wide Vermont 250: Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4
- Vermont 250 Speaker: Date and time TBD

The next meeting will be held at the library May 18, 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Heather Durkel, Secretary