

Abbott Memorial Library
Board of Trustees Minutes [Draft]
June 15, 2026

The June 15 meeting took place in-person at Abbott Memorial Library and began at 7:10 pm.

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

Absent: Katie Brickner

The June agenda was approved.

The May minutes were approved.

Reports

Librarian: *Cory Smith*

Abbott Book Club:

- Earlier this month 13 of us enjoyed a nice discussion of the memoir *Memoial Days* by Geraldine Brooks. We are on break for the summer and will meet again on Tuesday, October 6 at 6pm to talk about the nonfiction book *Confederates in the Attic* by Tony Horwitz.
- Fiber & Craft Group: 3 knitters and menders joined us in May. Our next meetup will be Tuesday, June 16 from 4:30 - 6pm.
- Summer Reading Program: this year's theme is "Unearth A Story". Our sign-up kits will be ready soon. Ongoing activities will be a dinosaur tabletop coloring sheet and a homemade rock dig. Over the summer we are planning 3 rotating craft activities: white crayon watercolor resist, wet felting and dino playdoh. At the end of the summer, we will give out gift cards to Yankee Bookshop.
- Pomfret 250: In addition to a VT Humanities speaker (Vermont Sampler Stories) on Sat. Sept 12 at 4pm at the Pomfret roan office, the library is planning a couple of other activities. For September and October, Heather and I are working on putting together a Storywalk on the library grounds. During Artistree's Artfest in early October, we would

like to set up a calligraphy and cursive craft table and possibly a tea and cookie table too. We would also like to put together a sponge print flag making craft table in the fall, though early July and would be good for this craft too.

- We are finishing up spending for FY 26.

Outreach: *Heather*

General Update:

- Cory provided an overview of the outreach offerings in her Librarian's Report.
- Heather has also been in touch with Artistree to learn about their plans for Artfest/ the 250 Celebration.
- Heather will reach out to Mark Binder to see if he would like to use "local stories" as the late summer Moth Storytelling topic.

Development: *Jan*

General Update:

- Jan and Jocelyn met and discussed the Annual Appeal.
- Jan received the files for the Annual Appeal.

Treasurer: *Mary*

General Update:

- Mary sent out the income & expense sheets for review
- The books will be balanced at the end of June

Building & Grounds : *Jim*

Culvert

- Jim discussed clearing out the culvert at the entrance to the library walkway. It is currently fully clogged.

Buildings & Grounds Routine Yearly Tasks

- Betsy shared a comprehensive document outlining the tasks that need attention throughout the year.

- The following tasks are those that Betsy has noted she will continue to maintain: Stream bank restoration, monitor the bridge vegetation, keep the picnic tables & benches clear of branches, watch out & manage for invasives.

Chair: *Jocelyn*

No updates at this time.

Old Business

Compliance with Open Meeting Law

- The Library will begin recording our library meetings on Zoom
- The Library will use the town's guidance on complaints and will provide a link on the Library website for the public to access the town's Open Meeting Law protocol.

Chimney repair

- Jocelyn connected with the chimney repair individual. Jocelyn is working to solidify a date that the work can begin.

Site Survey

- Jan reviewed the state tax maps for The Abbott Memorial Library and connected with Becky. Jan is going to continue to look into
- Mary will call Lawrence Swanson to discuss the processes for surveying the library grounds.

Covered Bridges review

- All of the trustees had positive experiences volunteering.
- The Library will receive \$1,500 for volunteering for the event

Thomas Ware painting conservation

- Jocelyn, Cory & Mary attended the Selectboard meeting in which the paintings were discussed.
- Matt Powers of The Woodstock Historical Center is open to meeting with the Pomfret Selectboard to show the paintings.

New Business

Ideas for programming

- Mary introduced the idea of hosting a presentation on AI Data Centers
- Alan Graham may do a talk on Hosea Doton & the history of Pomfret

Groundwork for the Friends organization

- Mary is drafting a letter to those who have expressed an interest
- To register as a nonprofit, the Friends Organization will need to register with the state, get an EIN, draft bylaws

Action Items

- Jocelyn will draft language to put above Pomfret's Open Meeting Law link and will distribute it to trustees via email.
- Joceyln and Mary will attend a talk about Data Centers / AI and share their experience with Library Trustees.
- Mary will call Lawrence Swanson to discuss the processes for surveying the library grounds.
- Cory and Kevin will work on the culvert repair on the front walk.
- Heather will reach out to Mark Binder about "Local Stories" as a possible topic for the late summer Moth Storytelling event.
- Jan will continue to gather information about the Library

Upcoming Events

- Fiber & Craft Group: Next meetup will be Tuesday, June 16 from 4:30 at 6pm
- Vermont 250 Speaker: Michele Pagan, a textile conservator, will speak on Saturday, September 12 at 4pm
- Town-Wide Vermont 250: Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4

The next meeting will be held at the library on August 17, 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Durkel