

Abbott Memorial Library

Board of Trustees Minutes

May 9, 2026

The May 18 meeting took place in-person at Abbott Memorial Library and began at 7:10 pm.

Present: Jocelyn Randles, Jim Robinson, Heather Durkel, Jan Salstrom, Katie Brickner, Cory Smith

Absent: Mary Worrell

Jocelyn added the long range plan and the Chair report to the end of the agenda, and then the agenda was approved.

The April minutes were approved.

Reports

Librarian: *Cory Smith*

Abbott Book Club:

- 15 people enjoyed an engaging discussion of *A Walk in the Park* by Kevin Fedarko on May 5.
- Our final read before a summer break will be *Memorial Days* by Geraldine Brooks on June 2 at 6pm.

Fiber & Craft Group:

- 4 knitters and crafters joined us in April.
- Our next meetup will be Tuesday May 19 from 4:30 at 6pm.

Pomfret 250:

- As part of the Pomfret 250 celebration, we are hosting a speaker at the Pomfret town office on Saturday September 12 at 4pm. Michele Pagan, a textile conservator, will present Vermont Sampler Stories.
- We may set up a Zoom so that some people may view this program at home.
- Heather and Cory are beginning to work on a story walk for Pomfret 250 (see outreach update below for more information).

Computer Update:

- Our new computers are set up and running. We still need to fully connect the copier and restore our saved files.

Summer Children's Programming:

- For the summer reading program, we are assembling kits for children to take home when they sign up.
- We are planning a craft program for some time in July.

Treasurer: *Cory on behalf of Mary*

Income/Expense:

- Cory and Mary discussed end of year spending in preparation for the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Mary also provided documents regarding income and expenses with the Trustees.

Outreach: *Heather*

General Update:

- Heather and Cory discussed a broad picture of outreach throughout the year and how Heather can support these efforts. While some programming takes place year round for all ages, in general the focus in the winter is on the adult speaker series, while in the summer it's on the children's summer reading program.
- Heather will provide support with publicity on the listserv, and other outlets, in Pomfret, and beyond to other towns, depending on the program.

Vermont 250:

- Much of the focus right now is on Vermont 250. Artistree has plans for an event in early October and we're looking for ways to provide parallel programming.
- Heather and Cory are exploring the idea of doing a story walk, in a nod to Vermont's history.
- Cory proposed having the story walk on display from September through mid/late October.
- Katie proposed including a craft related to the story that children can take with them.

Development: *Jan*

General Update:

- Jan and Jocelyn will meet to talk about transferring this role.

Buildings and Grounds: *Jim*

Culvert Repair:

- The culvert that runs under the walkway to the building's front door is partially clogged following recent storms. Cory began clearing it and Jim has offered to finish the job.

General Update:

- Jim will review the list of annual tasks and will follow up with Jocelyn about what he will take on. Everyone else agreed to help with projects as needed in the future.

Chair: *Jocelyn*

Operating Policy:

- We reviewed and approved the Operating Policy.

Long Range Plan:

- The long range plan is set until 2027. Leading up to that date, a committee will review and propose changes.

Open Meeting Law:

- In compliance with the open meeting law, we must post the audio from our meetings.
- We also must state when we are meeting and anyone who would like to attend must make the request up to two days before the meeting.
- We also need to provide a method for people to file a complaint if they believe we aren't adhering to the open meeting law.

Chimney Repair:

- We haven't made progress with the chimney repair. Jocelyn will follow up with the contractor identified last year.

Mowing:

- Dave Pearsons has confirmed that he will continue mowing the lawn this year.

Site Survey/Building Upgrades:

- A site survey identifying the property boundaries around the library is necessary to consider possibilities for achieving ADA compliance, but a survey would be quite expensive. We approached Artistree to get the surveys done during their renovations. Unfortunately, the documents they were able to provide do not include enough of the library plot to get the information needed.
- Jan will go to the Town Office to see what information is available about the abutting property, formerly owned by Kathy Wendling, currently owned by Artistree.

Covered Bridges Half Marathon:

- Jocelyn hasn't received information about volunteering for the Covered Bridges Half Marathon yet.
- We discussed availability and shirt sizes.
- Jocelyn will follow up with details when she has them.

Thomas Ware Paintings:

- Jocelyn provided an update about the Thomas Ware painting conservation. On average, restoration will cost \$5,000 for each painting. The works are listed as assets to the town, so this information should be communicated with the town.
- Jocelyn will send a letter to the Selectboard inviting a discussion with a working group composed of members of the Selectboard, Library Trustees, and Pomfret Historical Society.

New Business

Dolly Parton Imagination Library:

- Katie suggested that the library become an enrollment partner for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The response was positive and Katie will follow up with more information when it is available.

Action Items

- Heather and Cory will continue planning for the Vermont 250 story walk.
- Jan and Jocelyn will meet to discuss the transfer of development responsibilities.
- Jim will work on the culvert repair on the front walk.
- Jocelyn will follow up with the contractor we approached last year about the chimney repair.
- Jan will visit the Town Office to see if there are property maps available.
- Jocelyn will email the Selectboard and Historical Society regarding the Thomas Ware painting restoration.
- Katie will share additional information when it is available about the library becoming an enrollment partner for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Upcoming Events

- Fiber & Craft Group: Next meetup will be Tuesday, May 19 from 4:30 at 6pm
 - Book Group: *Memorial Days* by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed on June 2 at 6pm
 - Covered Bridges Half Marathon: June 7
 - 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
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The next meeting will be held at the library on June 15, 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Brickner, Secretary