

Berkley Public Library Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2025

ATTENDING: Paula Dugan, Chairperson; Megan Silva, Trustee; Dean Larabee, Trustee; Carol Buote, Director; Emily Taylor, Secretary, Cathy Charette, President of the Friends of the Library

BILLS: No bills to be reviewed.

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order at 7:20 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8th, 2025, at 7:15 PM.

MINUTES OF PAST MEETING: October minutes were read and accepted into the record.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT: Program attendance and engagement were reviewed. Total attendance was 922. The average attendance per program was roughly 15 attendees, an increase from October numbers. Writers Circle program is launching in November. Future and developing programs were discussed. Ways to support programs were discussed. Director Carol Buote ~~discussed the encouragement of~~ encouraged the continuation of teen volunteers as they have been helpful in the past.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director's Report for the period from October 22nd to November 18th was read. November book club discussed *Speak to Me of Home* by Jeanine Cummins. The December book club's choice is *Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini. Librarians attended various roundtable events and training. Weekly status meetings with CHA and CBT continue, as well as two Library Building Committee meetings. Layouts for the new library are being reviewed and revised. The library experienced internet and phone issues on 11/10-11/11. The library ~~participated~~ attended in the town's Veterans Day ceremony. Donations and State Aid accounts were reviewed to resolve prior year issues. Lights On is Sunday, December 7th. Cookie decorating and warm cider will be offered.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: Friends met on October 22nd with 12 members in attendance. Friends ran a successful cocktail tasting on November 16th where they raffled off a quilt. Friends of the Library were given the opportunity to place a clothing shed ~~near Bristol County Wine & Spirits~~ on the Berkley Common in partnership with St Pauly Textile, Inc. Parameters of the program were discussed. Trustee Dean Larabee made a motion to vote to approve the bin. The motion was approved.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE: At the November 10th meeting the committee discussed current designs and suggestions were made. Two layouts were chosen to continue with. Next meeting is November 24th at 7:00PM.

PUBLIC INPUT: No public input.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made to allow the library to close at 6:00PM the day before Thanksgiving. The motion was approved.

CORRESPONDANCE: Donation was received as a thank you from a patron. A thank you was sent about the baby shower event. A thank you was received from a patron who moved to another town and wanted to recognize the customer service the library provides. All Carnegie libraries receive \$10,000 in January 2026 in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The library received an announcement that State Aid is being awarded. The library will receive \$9,392.30 from State Aid. SAILS FY 2027 Membership Assessment was received.

Adjourned at 8:28 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Emily Taylor, Secretary