

**Bedford Free Public Library
Library Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm**

In attendance: Gyasi Burks-Abbott, Padma Choudry, Rachel Field, Elizabeth Hacala, Renae Nichols, Mike Pulizzi, Emily Prince (minutes)

Other attendees: Jaclyn Powers, Library Director; Dot Bergin, Bedford Citizen; Terrence Parker, Select Board; Barbara Alveras, PMP

Call to Order: Padma Choudry called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

Public Comments: None

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Reports from 10/14 and 11/12 meetings

- A minor, non-substantive change was made to the 10/14 minutes.

Director's Report

- Jaclyn Powers assured a smooth transition in vendors due to Baker and Taylor's cessation of operations.

Budget Update

- Clarification regarding negative net materials was provided. The library is currently removing more items from the collection than purchasing.

Statistics

Following a brief discussion, Elizabeth Hacala moved to approve the consent agenda, subject to the non-substantive change to the minutes; Rachel Field seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-1.

Unfinished Business

Select Board update regarding proposed changes to Charter and Bylaws

- Padma Choudry provided a brief update regarding the Select Board's proposed changes to the town charter and bylaws.
- During a recent discussion with Town Manager, Matt Hanson, clarification of the existing charter and bylaw was discussed.
- The Board of Trustees has not seen town counsel's opinion; will request a copy.
- It was noted that the Library Trustees were responsible for hiring the library director in April 2025. The Town Manager signed the offer letter, but did not directly participate in the process.
- Terrence Parker spoke to Select Board Chair, Paul Mortenson, who stated that the Town is seeking a second opinion regarding the interpretation of the existing charter and bylaws.
- The town archivist should have records establishing the Bedford Free Public Library. Jaclyn Powers will request a copy of the records.

Action Items:

- Padma Choudry, Emily Prince and Jaclyn Powers will speak with town counsel during December office hours; will request a copy of the opinion.
- Padma Choudry and Emily Prince will contact the Select Board Chair regarding the status of the second opinion.
- Jaclyn Powers will request a copy of the records establishing the library.

Other Business

Strategic Planning activity with Barbara Alevras from Sage Consulting

The Library Trustees participated in a strategic planning exercise with the Barbara Alevras from Sage Consulting.

- Strengths Opportunities Aspirations Results (“SOAR”) exercise
- Purpose was to brainstorm and capture ideas

Renae Nichols moved to adjourn. Elizabeth Hacala seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.
Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm