

**BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

December 12, 2025

A regular meeting of the Bedford Public Library Board of Trustees was held on December 12, 2025 in the Richmond Room. In attendance were Lee Joyce (Chair), Jerry Hanauer (Treasurer), Lauren Saidel-Baker (Trustee), Catherine Rombeau (Alternate Trustee), Kevin Brown (Alternate Trustee), Miriam Johnson (Director), and Caitlin Loving (Assistant Director). The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Secretary's Report—Minutes from the November 14, 2025, meeting were accepted and approved.

Motion: Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to approve; Lee Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report— The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.

Acceptance of Gifts—Miscellaneous donations - \$24.00.

Motion: Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to accept all gifts; Lee Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report – See attached.

Old Business:

Budget 2026—Brief review of the year-to-date 2025 budget and the upcoming 2026 budget. The Town Council will be discussing the budget at their next meeting on December 17th.

Public Restroom Project—Miriam Johnson met with Peter Barbuto to discuss the proposed plans; he was in favor of the water closet designs and recommended that any updates include replacing the toilets with wall-mounted versions, as these are much easier for cleaning and maintenance.

Landscaping and Trees Project—Miriam Johnson gave an update about the potential landscaping options.

Circulation Policy—Miriam Johnson shared that we are still waiting for a response from the attorney regarding HB 273 (parent/guardian access to a minor's account) and the updates to the circulation policy.

New Business:

HB 1214: There is a proposed bill intending to make Library Board of Trustees advisory and giving municipalities oversight of public libraries, if a town votes in favor of this with a warrant article.

Meeting Room Policy Review—There was a brief review of the minor updates to the Meeting Room Policy.

Motion: Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to approve the policy with amendments; Lee Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Quiet Study Rooms Policy Review—There was a brief review of the slightly updated Quiet Study Rooms Policy.

Motion: Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to approve the policy with amendments; Lee Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Appreciation—There was a discussion of the Trustees taking over the funding of the volunteer appreciation gift cards from the Friends of the Bedford Library.

Motion: Jerry Hanauer made a motion to spend up to \$20 per volunteer/\$10 per volunteer dog to show appreciation; Lauren Saidel-Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Renaming of the Library---A former library trustee had emailed to recommend that the library rename from the Bedford Public Library to the Fran Wiggin Memorial Library. Lee Joyce spoke with him to discuss it. No further recommendations were made.

Trustee Election—Jerry Hanauer is not running for re-election when his term ends in March. Jerry Hanauer will work with Lauren Saidel-Baker to train her to take over as Treasurer when his term ends. The next meetings will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026; Friday, February 13, 2026; and Friday, March 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Richmond Room. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Johnson
Library Director

Caitlin Loving
Assistant Director