

Draft Minutes February 19, 2026 Pierson Library Board of Trustees

Present: Holly Brough, Jessica Brumsted, Elizabeth Berman, Kristin Jangraw, Marissa Strayer-Benton, Rowan Dienz del-Rio, Georgia Knight, Library Director Mike Hibben, Margot Dater.

Call to order 6:32 PM

Elizabeth makes a motion to approve today's agenda; Jessica seconds. Approved 6:32 PM

No public comments.

Elizabeth makes a motion to approve the January 15, 2026 minutes; Kristin seconds. Approved 6:32 PM

Treasurers report:

Trustees discussed better recordkeeping for donor management and cultivation

Problem: We don't have one, clear record of donors

Proposal: Google drive to collect existing documents, and meeting after break to discuss an option for future fundraising software

New Trustees:

We selected two students to interview based on their letters. An interview team will set up interviews and choose one candidate.

Interview team: Alice, Holly, Rowan

Library Director Update (Mike)

The full Director's report was shared with the Board ahead of time.

Trustees discussed whether the director's reports can be streamlined in the future for the sake of efficiency. Trustees asked some clarifying questions on the first amendment audit that occurred.

Trustees discussed Jan 2025 vs Jan 2026 traffic numbers.

Trustees discussed a potential website refresh in the future.

The Director presented costs for additional digital resources.

Discussion of municipal funding vs fundraising when it comes to digital resources, and possibility of piloting additional subscriptions with trustee funding.

Trustees noted that we set expectations during our fundraising efforts that digital collections would be improved.

Elizabeth notes that the Vermont Department of Libraries have subscriptions to a couple databases that we don't pass on, and that even sharing those with our users could be a value-add. (Udemy online courses, Consumer Reports)

Trustees lean toward earmarking \$5k for digital subscriptions – \$3k for NYT, \$2k for Libby
Children's area would be \$30-50k

Would need to start a fund, design, etc

Think about the budget: How much of what we've raised vs. what we have in the bank should we set aside for the 3 projects.

New business:

Elizabeth makes a motion to encumber \$5k for summer reading. Kristin seconds. The motion passes.

Policy Updates (Mike):

Trustees noted a discrepancy in ages listed in different parts of the document.

Making clear how old the person is who is responsible for a vulnerable adult vs a child

-If under 10, 14 and up

-If a vulnerable adult, should be 18 and up

Recommendation: Split clearly into here's the children policy. Here's the vulnerable patron policy.

No vote taken.

Fundraising Update and Planning: (Jessica, Becky, Marissa)

-Monday night worked better than last year - Gave Michael time to clean up and reset

-Suggestion for next year: Some of the invitations sent before acknowledgment letters sent out

No rush to do it in early Feb - people can be sick, bad weather

Last year was early March - let's make it early March next yet

Gives Michael a chance to get everything wrapped up - send out invitations in early Feb, get it ready. Better weather, fewer colds/flu

Maybe spread it out away from town meeting week

-Considering sponsorship for summer reading, engaging local businesses.

-Don't waste Natl Library Week April 19-25 - soft campaign - just a newsletter, quick blast, social media, FPF

-Possibility of May gala: pausing on this for another year due to Trustee bandwidth

-Maybe first year or two we just break even, to build up the even within the community

-call it a "garden party" - lowers expectations for attendees

-notice when the Library gardens look good

-Trustees noted that it takes a few years to raise significant amounts – Main rotary fundraiser raised about \$0, \$6000, \$10,000 in its first 3 years.

-Michael spoke at Wake Robin - Jessica noted that it would be useful to have a sheet where we can keep track of people who are interested in giving back and would like to be contacted

Have a sign-up sheet at events to capture contacts

-Tentative plan to send an April ask to the MailChimp list

-Use graphics from ALA

February Donor Appreciation:

-Positive debrief on event

Survey update:

- runs through this Monday
- 173 respondents so far

Trends:

- people are not happy about our hours, more requests for Sunday hours than last year.
- Collections need work

Budget:

- Discussion about ~\$1.2million of non-library debt (for town hall renovations and campus upgrades) that has been lumped in to the library budget
- “Our operating budget is \$770k. Also taking on the debt for town hall renovations and municipal campus upgrades at the same time.”
- 5% increase, less than the town’s

Retreat Saturday, March 7, 9am - 12pm. Likely at the Windmill Hill House.

Trustees discussed possibly needing more than one additional trustee due to increased demands on the board, increased fundraising needs in the face of flat municipal budgets

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 19, 6:30 PM.

Kristin makes a motion that executive session is needed to discuss a legal or personnel matter. Elizabeth seconded at 8:25 PM.

Holly makes a motion that we enter executive session and adjourn from the meeting now. Marissa seconds. Meeting ended at 8:26 PM.