

Falmouth Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees  
January 13, 2026 6:30 PM  
MINUTES

Falmouth Public Library, Trustees' Meeting Room  
300 Main Street, Falmouth, MA 02540  
(with Zoom option)

*The FPL Mission Statement: The Falmouth Public Library engages and empowers the community through its programs, services, and collections that inform, educate, and entertain.*

**PRESENT:**

**Trustees** Judy Fenwick, Donna Mattison-Earls, Camille Romano\*, Kathie Mount, Jenifer Alai, Judy Handley, Mary Fran Buckley

**Staff** Brian Stokes, Director

**Guests** Mary Tamucci \* Friends of the Falmouth Public Library; Marcia Easterling, League of Women Voters; Maureen McIver, Recording Secretary\*

\*= remote

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:35 Chair J. Fenwick called the meeting to order.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. REPORTS FROM LIBRARY SUPPORT GROUPS**

a) Report from the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

M. Tamucci reported that at the next meeting the Friends will be setting the dates for the Friends annual meeting, the summer sale, and the holiday sale. The membership committee will be holding a new volunteer orientation at the end of January. Mary Kay Brown, chair of the membership development committee, will be the point person for the newsletter. The next edition is due to be published in early to mid-March.

b) Report of the Falmouth Public Library Support Fund

The group meets every other month on the 4th Tuesday. The next meeting is on January 27, 2026.

**4. SECRETARY'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) Minutes of November 4, 2025 Trustees Meeting were presented for approval. (1)

**Motion by J. Alai to accept the minutes of the November 4, 2025 Trustees Meeting as amended.**

**Second by K. Mount.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**C. Romano-aye\*; MF. Buckley-aye; J. Fenwick-aye; K. Mount-aye; J. Alai-aye; D. Mattison-Earls-aye; J. Handley-aye**

**Motion passed.**

b) Minutes of December 9, 2025 Trustees Meeting were presented for approval. (2)

**Motion by K. Mount to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Trustees Meeting as corrected.**

**Second by J. Alai.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**C. Romano-aye\*; MF. Buckley-aye; J. Fenwick-aye; K. Mount-aye; J. Alai-aye; D. Mattison-Earls-aye; J. Handley-aye**

**Motion passed.**

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**FY2026 2nd Quarter Expense Report (3)**

J. Handley reviewed the report noting that \$20,000 had been moved from the investment fund to the checking account. The four new benches for the library lawn were the biggest expense for the quarter.

**Motion by J. Alai to accept the fiscal year 2026 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter expense report as presented.**

**Second by D. Mattison-Earls.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**C. Romano-aye\*; MF. Buckley-aye; J. Fenwick-aye; K. Mount-aye; J. Alai-aye; D. Mattison-Earls-aye; J. Handley-aye**

**Motion passed.**

## **6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

a) MA Public Library Construction Program Update

All materials have been submitted and all requirements have been satisfied for the initial planning and design phase. The report is in independent review now. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commission (MBLC) was engaged with the architects, Oudens Ello, at every step. During the December 15 presentation of the schematic design by Conrad Ello to the Select Board for their vote, some community input received by a member of the Select Board via social media implied that the new design was too modern, and that the existing building was historic and had been donated to the Town.

B. Stokes reminded the Trustees that the building was built in 1961 and was sold to the town by the local family for \$124,000, today's equivalent of about \$1 million. Faulty information may be the biggest problem facing this project and the Trustees can help correct the record.

b) FY2027 Town Budget Update

Only two modest line-item requests were made. The Finance Committee begins its review of the operating budget this week. The Library's budget review has not yet been scheduled.

c) 2026 CLAMS Legislative Event – January 16

The event will take place sometime in February.

d) 2026 Projects: FPL Website and FPL Strategic Plan

The website needs redesign. The Seekonk Library is considering a similar project and has begun to seek input from other libraries on potential vendors, which they will share with B. Stokes. State aid will fund this project.

B. Stokes noted that the current Strategic Plan runs through June 2027. A subcommittee involving staff, Trustees and community engagement will be in updating the plan. There is no intention to use an outside consultant.

An additional project is the Hermann Room AV system. It is aged and since the room serves a critical community need, it is best not to wait for things to break down.

e) The Future of Zoom

Since the library has Google Workspace which includes Google Meet, the Zoom account will be allowed to lapse in May 2026.

## **7. CHAIR'S REPORT**

a) New Year's greetings

Kim Comart of the Falmouth Pond Coalition (FPC) has sent notice of an upcoming presentation about Mill Pond. He is interested in knowing what part FPC can have in discussing the pond's health as part of the East Falmouth rebuilding project. J. Fenwick hopes the Trustees can be supportive of these efforts.

b) Director's Evaluation

The process is anticipated to begin in March or April. The old evaluation instrument will be reviewed prior to this.

c) Board Retreat

The Retreat is envisioned as an opportunity to discuss how funds are acquired and spent along with numerous other issues that affect the Board. The Chair will be looking for potential dates.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Resource Committee

Lori Evans from Cambridge Trust Investments dropped by January 6 with an in-person year-end 2025 report for the Trustees' Fund. It was a very positive year for the Fund.

J. Fenwick noted that the Friends and the Support Fund also had a good year.

b) Building and Grounds

The windows are scheduled to be finished by this Friday.

c) Policy Committee (4)

J. Alai noted that policies were reviewed and updated over the last year; feedback is that new policies are working well.

## **9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

## **10. ADJOURN**

**At 7:27 motion by K. Mount to adjourn.**

**Second by J. Alai.**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**C. Romano-aye\*; MF. Buckley-aye; J. Fenwick-aye; K. Mount-aye; J. Alai-aye; D.**

**Mattison-Earls-aye; J. Handley-aye**

**Motion passed.**

Respectively submitted,

Camille Romano, Secretary

Relevant Documents

- (1) Minutes of November 4, 2025 Trustees Meeting
- (2) Minutes of December 9, 2025 Trustees Meeting
- (3) FY2026 2nd Quarter Expense Report
- (4) Policy Committee Report January 2025 to January 2026

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The next meetings of the Board of Library Trustees will be:

6:30 PM, Tuesday	February 10, 2026	Falmouth Public Library-Main
6:30 PM, Tuesday	March 10, 2026	Falmouth Public Library-Main
6:30 PM, Tuesday	April 14, 2026	Falmouth Public Library-Main