

Joint Meeting: Library Board of Trustees & Library Building Committee
Minutes of the August 26, 2025 Meeting
Hanson Public Library
132 Maquan Street, Hanson, MA 02341

In Attendance for Library Trustees: Dianna McDevitt, Pam French, Linda Wall, Teresa Santalucia, John Papp and Karen Stolfer, (not in attendance: Corinne Cafardo)

In Attendance for Library Building Committee: Teresa Santalucia, Pam French, Linda Wall, Tom Hickey, Pat Faiella, Melissa Valachovic and Karen Stolfer (not in attendance: Corinne Cafardo and Tony DeFrias)

Call to Order

- Pam French called the Board of Library Trustees meeting to order at 6:46PM.
- Pat called the Library Building Committee to order at 6:46PM.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Library Trustees

- Teresa Santalucia made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 22, 2025 meeting. Linda Wall seconded it. Motion passed 5-0 (1 member not present).

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Library Trustees

- Teresa Santalucia made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 5, 2025 meeting. John Papp seconded it. Motion passed 5-0 (1 member not present).

Approval of Minutes of the Library Building Committee

- Teresa Santalucia made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 14, 2025 Library Building Committee meeting. Pam French seconded it. Motion passed 5-0 (2 members not present (1 voting member, 1 non-voting member), 1 abstaining, and 1 non-voting member present).

Director's Report

- Statistics – Refer to the handout.
- Financial – Refer to the handout.
- Programming – Refer to the handout. Summer is winding down but overall had great turnout for summer programs including for the summer reading finale.
- Overview of September 2025 programming – Refer to September 2025 calendar sheet. There are many exciting and new programs in store for this coming month.
- Building/Maintenance – Refer to the handout. Ed Sheehan installed the new tree out front today.
- Other – Refer to the handout. ARIS report is finished and submitted; there are some oddities in the subtotals due to the State changing how certain categories are counted. Karen will begin work on the State Aid Financial Report. The library plans to participate in Hanson Day on Saturday 9/27/25 and will make sure to have information available regarding the building project. Karen received many applications for the open circulation position and will begin interviewing.

New Business

- Trustees Vote on Building Committee Recommendation to Pursue Addition/Renovation Project
 - Pam French made a motion for the Library to follow the recommendation of the Library Building Committee and pursue an addition/renovation project instead of new construction. Teresa Santalucia seconded it. Motion passed 5-0 (1 member not present).

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- Some additional discussions included: Teresa is supportive of the rehab idea since the addition/renovation would be about two-thirds “new building”. Karen met with Dan, Mark, and MBLC to discuss if there can be any reduction in building size to save on costs. The MBLC explained that no library “programmatic” space can be cut, only “non-programmatic” space (e.g. hallways, closets, HVAC storage etc.). The 22,000 square feet specified in the Building Program must be dedicated library space, not space that is considered shared with any other town department.
- There was a conversation about offering the current library space to the Town for other use if we had a new building, but Select Board Chair Laura Fitzgerald-Kemmett, Town Planner Tony DeFrias, and Building Commissioner Mike Crisafulli indicated that at this time there is no interest in the town using the Library space for other municipal purposes.
- The Senior Center Director previously stated that she didn’t believe their use of the library space would be acceptable to the town and its residents due to the financial costs of renovation requirements.

- **October Town Meeting Articles**

- Originally, we were going to submit three articles to Town Meeting:
 - Article to restore staffing hours and operating hours – see below.
 - Article to recoup the \$150,000 in ARPA funds that had been approved at Town Meeting and which was reallocated by the Select Board. The Select Board Chair informed Karen that the Board would not vote to place this on the warrant and so the article was pulled from consideration.
 - Maquan Land Article– Dan Pallotta said there isn’t a rush to place this article in October since the Town currently owns the land – it can wait for May Town Meeting. The article was therefore pulled from consideration.
- There was discussion about using a citizens-petition article to keep the \$150,000 matter on the warrant. However, there was concern that it could jeopardize our chances of retaining Town support for our project.
- Also discussed were some possible reasons for keeping the Maquan land article on the October warrant, such as the issue being on voters’ radar in preparation for an actual vote at May Town meeting. It was asked if there an informational way to do this.
- Karen will ask if the Library/P3/Oudens Ello can do a 5-minute informational presentation at the October Town Meeting. Karen will check with the moderator.
- Tom Hickey recommended getting the town’s current debt schedule to see what and how much is coming off the books soon. In addition to the Library, there are several entities (Highway, South Shore Technical School, Fire Dept) that will or may be seeking funding in the near future and it’s important for us to determine where we fall in this funding hierarchy. Karen will contact the Town Accountant for this information.
- **Draft of October 2025 Town Meeting Article**
To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$21,000 to restore funds cut from the Library’s budget at May 2025 Town Meeting as well as restore staffing hours and

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*operating hours lost from cuts in 2010, or take any action relating thereto.
Proposed by the Board of Library Trustees*

Explanation: The Library was cut \$16,000 at May 2025 Annual Town Meeting and is also still short 10 staffing hours and 2 operating hours from cuts in 2010. This article would allow the Library to gain back staff hours to avoid unexpected closures and restore the 2 lost operating hours to stay open until 5:00 pm on Wednesdays.

Trustees Vote: Linda Wall made a motion to submit the article with the above wording for the October Town Meeting warrant. Teresa Santalucia seconded it. Motion passed 5-0 (1 member not present).

- **MBTA Zoning Hearing Update**

- Yesterday there was a public hearing at Town Hall on the MBTA zoning law that Karen and Corinne attended. The Planning Board voted to take no action about putting an article forward at October Town Meeting. The Select Board will now have the option to place the matter on the warrant themselves. Voters will be given the chance to adopt MBTA zoning or to allocate funds for legal costs should the state take up the matter with the town in court.

There is discussion of a State-wide ballot question to repeal MBTA Zoning. Right now, the MBLC plans to wait until the exact day of the construction grant decision to determine Hanson's compliance and how that affects their award decision. If the Town is compliant, we will get the grant; if we're not compliant, the grant will be denied.

Karen will reach out to Ken Sweezey regarding the status of legislative efforts relating to the MBTA zoning issue.

- **Library Building Project Marketing** – Karen sent the Building Committee's suggestions to P3 and not all changes were made. The committee doesn't like the logo, although the three trees are good. The building in the logo is too large and looks like a bank, and the colors are not liked either. There was a request to have a white background with black text, rather than a colored background with white text, due to ADA compliance concerns.

A recommendation was made to ensure photos of current building issues are included as well as renderings of what the building may look like. Pat suggested setting up easels at Town Meeting with this information, especially if we cannot present at Town Meeting. Karen will find out if Oudens Ello can have something available by then. Tom said South Shore Tech did exactly this at Town Meetings, and it helped quite a bit.

Bochure – Committee members asked who we are targeting with this document. The visuals are good, but maybe there could be less text. Oudens Ello should have plenty of photos to choose from of current conditions/issues at the library.

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Building Committee Vote: Tom made a motion to designate 2 members (Teresa and Pam) to serve as marketing representatives and work with Karen and P3. Pat seconded. Motion passed 6-0 (2 members not present (1 voting member, 1 non-voting member) and 1 non-voting member present).

Timeline – Karen spoke with Matt of Oudens Ello who will reach out to the team – he advised the next Building Committee meeting would need to take place the week of 9/8/2025.

Building Committee Vote: Teresa made a motion that the Building Committee submit the article written by Pam, Teresa, and Karen to the Whitman-Hanson Express. Tom Hickey seconded it. Motion passed 6-0 (2 members not present (1 voting member, 1 non-voting member) and 1 non-voting member present).

Karen will update the Planning and Design Grant document (refer to handout) used previously in 2024 at Town Meeting to utilize the updated color scheme once it's confirmed with P3.

- Library Building Project Fundraising/Capital Campaign – Karen asked MBLC what other libraries did for their capital campaign kickoff timing. It was advised that at our next Hanson Public Library Foundation meeting we would need to move forward with discussions of a Capital Campaign, hiring a consultant, etc. Karen already has a list of companies we could contact.

Date of Next Board of Library Trustees Meeting

- Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:45 pm

Adjournment of Board of Library Trustees

- John Papp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16PM, Dianna McDevitt seconded it. Motion passed 5-0 (1 member not present).

Adjournment of Library Building Committee

- Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16PM. Linda Wall seconded it. Motion passed 6-0 (2 members not present (1 voting member, 1 non-voting member) and 1 non-voting member present).

Attachments:

Draft Minutes from July 22, 2025 Hanson Board of Library Trustees meeting
Draft Minutes from August 5, 2025 Hanson Board of Library Trustees meeting
Draft Minutes from August 14, 2025 Hanson Library Building Committee meeting
Director's Report dated August 26, 2025 which includes Statistics, Financial, Programming, Programming Statistics, September 2025 Calendar of Events
Draft of October 2025 Town Meeting Article
Marketing Materials from P3
Draft Article for publication in Whitman-Hanson Express
Flier from 2024 Town Meeting that provides information about the Planning and Design Grant
2026 ARIS Report