

(February 25, 2026)

Approved Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
Zoom - 7:00 pm  
January 26, 2026

**Trustees Present all via Zoom:**

R. Boroujerdi, K. Patel, S. Gordon, S. Bennewitz, B. Chan, M. Silverstein, A. Alemani, D. Briggs, C. Charise, J. Corgel, B. Gaylord, J. Price, D. Travlos, L. Van Gundy, P. Wieser, A. Zwick, M. Sze, P. Zakowich.

Trustees Absent: K. Guion

Also Present as a Member of the Development Committee:

R. Herbertson

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

President's Report: R. Boroujerdi.

Minutes of December meeting accepted by Board and entered as such. R. Boroujerdi introduced the Library's new Chief Financial Officer, Amber Tencic.

R. Boroujerdi began the meeting by re-iterating the mission of the institution and our role as stewards. R. Boroujerdi further discussed progress to date on the ED's board level goals and reminded the group that our strategic plan is a living breathing document that will roll out over several years. R. Boroujerdi also discussed prudent budget prioritization and trade-offs in the development of the next fiscal year outlook. Lastly, R. Boroujerdi thanked members who had attended the MLK Jr. Event and encouraged all members to visit the programming calendar and continue to commit to attendance.

P. Wieser – Reminded everyone about the rescheduled 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for Bill, which is scheduled to take place February 26<sup>th</sup>. Invitations forthcoming.

Gov/Nom Committee Report: M. Sze

Trustee Recruitment is on schedule. Mid-February we will send notice to the Town and will be ready to post job description. Looking for people with expertise in the following areas, legal, knowledge of non-profit, digital and media. M. Sze also made it clear that these were preferred backgrounds but did not want to rule out other qualified candidates.

Gift and Sponsorship policies are scheduled ready for potential approval at the next meeting. By-Laws are being worked on and will have an update for the group at the next meeting.

Development Committee: R. Herbertson/M. Silverstein

Donor Appreciation Night was a success. A total of 90 sponsors were in attendance. Annual Fund, to date, has exceeded our goal. A board funded challenge grant was also reviewed for the final push into the campaign window. Campaign-raised \$416,000, \$105,000 over budget.

FY 26/27 Budget: S. Bennewitz/B. Chan

S. Bennewitz thanked everyone for their hard work and contributions.

A 3.2% increase in the budget requested from the Town of Westport is being proposed, which is lower than previous years. Budget was built on past and realistic goals and strategic alignment.

Key budget assumptions:           Wage increase 2.5%  
                                          Full-time employee head count no increase  
                                          6% draw to help with Strategic Plan Budget Items

B. Chan asked the Board for approval. S. Bennewitz made a motion to approve. Board passed 100%

Next Step for Finance Committee includes preparing budget narrative and in February, making a presentation to the Town's Board of Finance.

Executive Director Report: B. Harmer

Formal report will be uploaded to Board Portal by the end of the week.

Adjournment motion by S. Bennewitz, seconded by P. Wieser, unanimously agreed. 8:02 pm

Respectfully submitted by S. Presutto on behalf of Sheri Gordon