

**Attleboro Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes January 14, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by David Pierce at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Mahesh Patel, Charlie Oliver, David Pierce, Tobey Reed, Tricia Svendsen

Director: Amy Rhilinger

1. Introductions

None

2. Minutes of December Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December meeting as presented.

The motion passed.

3. Business Required by Law

None

4. Treasurer's Report

Mahesh presented Warrant #5 in the amount of \$1,301.26.

The balance in the Santander account is \$4,595.41. The Rockland Trust Account shows a value of \$2,098,138.00.

A motion was made to accept the Warrant and transfer the amount of the Warrant to the checking account. It was approved.

5. Committee Reports

None

6. Director's Report

Amy submitted a report and commented on the following:

- New flooring throughout the building is completed, and reaction by Friends and patrons has been positive.
- Functioning at other locations during the flooring project was challenging, but city staff as well as Library staff, were supportive.
- Regarding the cyber attack:
The cyber attack caused less trouble for the Library than the rest of the city. Although the city lost six weeks of emails, neither the Library's phones nor their work computers were infected. They are still waiting to get the laptops back. MIS has been helpful in getting the technology up and running.
- The Library will not be applying for the NEA Big Read grant this year. The application process is lengthy, and the Library staff found the title offerings not to be of interest. Additionally, the move back into the Library after the six-week closure has kept staff very busy.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Strategic Plan Update
Nothing new

b. Circulation and Self-checkout

At the last meeting the question about self-checkout came up. Is this something the Library should be considering? Other local towns (Norton, Seekonk) have this feature. Mention was made that such systems would require a security system, and that at one point APL did have an electronic security system. Is self-checkout something more appropriate for small libraries, or are we being left behind? Amy said staff will be researching the implications of adopting a self-checkout system.

8. New Business

- The Friends of APL are planning a reopening reception to highlight the new flooring and new furniture in the Library. Last year's Library Giving Day contributions funded the new furniture.

The reception will take place on Feb. 27, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It will include music, speakers, food and beverages. Board members are invited to conduct "tours" that would include some Library history facts during the reception.

- The Augat Foundation contributed \$50,000 some 10+ years ago, for an extensive renovation of the Children's Room. It was the initial donation for the \$350,000 expected cost of the project. Although a committee of architects, Library staff, patrons, teachers and more worked on plans, the project never came to fruition. The \$50,000 has been held by the Friends of APL for years. The extensive renovation project is not being considered at this time.

Charlie stated that when funds are donated for a particular purpose and then not used for that purpose, they are generally returned to the donor. However, since the Augat Foundation no longer exists (terminated in 2017), the funds could be used for upgrading the Children's Room. Amy and staff will be considering ways to use the funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Next meeting: February 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Svendsen