

Friends of the Millis Public Library  
September 24, 2025  
Called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Attendees: Sandra Elaine Scott, Art Payne, Julie Ackley, Kim Tolson, Becky Fong, Jane Hardin, Jen Payne, Diana Nunnaley, Nancy Snow, Grace Hayes and Meghan Gavaghan.

Acceptance of June 25, 2025, Minutes:

Jane Hardin made a motion to accept with corrections, Art seconded, motion passed.

Director's Report:

Kim presented her report. The summer programs were very well attended!

- The Teen Tie Dye event had 12 kids who had a great time.
- The Paint Seashells for the Middle School had 10.
- Creative Corner was very popular with 12 – 16 attending each week.
- The Make and Take Your Own Pickles had a full roster with 25 attendees.
- Owl of Massachusetts had 41 attendees – and had fantastic comments!
- The Adult Summer Reading Bingo had 382 total participants, 45 bingo winners and 19 who completed all the spaces and were eligible for the grand prize raffle. A very significant increase over last year's participants.
- The Children's Summer Reading Store program had 99 participants.
- The Battle of the Books had 5 teams with 14 total participating. The Battle Event had 37 attendees. The Battle of the Books for older kids did not take off this year with only 1 team of 3 people participating.

In addition, Kim had several updates. The Library has two new On Call Assistants on staff: Hannah Rishel and Nutan Mathew. Planning for Millis Reads 2026 will begin soon. Kim is looking for people who would like to volunteer for the planning committee. Also, the Library will be having a booth at the Millis Fire Department's Open House on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 -2. Any help would be appreciated.

Trustees' Report:

Becky presented the report. The Trustees have had two meetings. They will be providing the 'Coffee Connection Table' for the Book Sale on Saturday. She was looking for any raffle prizes from local businesses to have at the table. For future book sales the Trustees are looking into having 'branded' items to sell – stickers, pins, etc. They are looking into if there is any interest in selling branded items such as shirts, totes, etc.

Art then asked if and how the snow will be removed from around the St. Pauly's Shed. The response was that the DPW does the Library parking lot and will also do around the shed.

A Novel Occasion Update:

Sandra gave a brief update. The 6<sup>th</sup>! Annual Event will be held on January 31, 2026 from 12 – 2 via Zoom. There are four authors confirmed: Brendan Slocumb, Jamie Brenner, Jon Lindstrom and Paula Munier. The team is working on up-leveling strategies to increase attendance and increase the 'wow' factor.

#### Fall Book Sale Update:

Currently there are plenty of volunteers, but always looking for more! The set up dates are Tuesday night – which the Millis High School students and Medfield Football Team does! Thank You Brian Gavaghan. There are plenty books – mostly hard covered. The shed and closet are full. Sandra is thinking to maybe hold back some for the Spring.

Sandra discussed the current pricing of the books and to keep us on par with other library book sales. Across the board \$1 is the price for children's and paperbacks, with hard covers being \$2. We currently only charge \$.50 for children's books and \$1 for Audio Books. Sandra suggested we charge: \$1 for children's, \$2 for paperbacks and audio books and \$3 for hard cover. Sandra made a motion to increase the prices, Becky seconded and the motion passed.

In terms of advertising, Karen DeMarzo posted the sale on the Town Website. Sandra wrote 'a story' for the Millis/Medway paper and sent it in. The paper no longer does free 'advertising' for such events but will print a 'story'. Nancy suggested to 'interview' the student helpers about their experience helping and put that in the paper. Nancy and Diana also suggested that we thank our library sponsors at the Spring Book Sale. Either with a slide show – thanking them for which event they sponsored – or card that goes in each bag at the sale.

It was asked what was done with the books/DVDs etc that were not sold. Better World Books no longer is accepting them. Some might be carried over to the Spring Sale. Savers does take books and pays for them. Under 100 boxes is \$0.05/pound and over 100 boxes is \$0.10/pound. It is very complicated getting the books over to Savers. Steve's Rentals donated a trailer for the past sale, but volunteers would be needed. Norwood and West Roxbury takes donations during the week. Marlborough only takes on Saturday and you are given a specific time. They do the unloading. Sandra has the contact at Savers – Rachel will process to set a date and time.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Meghan presented the report. There were some positives for the Income. Becky Fong and family donated \$1000 from the cooking classes she held! The Library received \$384.83 from the St. Pauly's Textile Shed for three months.– this is averaging \$100-\$120 per month. We also received \$385.32 from Better World Books – this is also three months worth. The total income was \$2230.40. Unfortunately, the expenses for the month were \$4933.75. The biggest expense was the Museum Passes Renewals. That was \$2325.00.

We're hoping for a good book sale. We generally receive between \$2500 to \$3000.

### Program Funding Requests:

Kim presented her funding requests for programs through the end of 2025.

The total for the Adult Programs was \$1125.

\$500 for Jeff Belanger 'Ghosts and Legends'

\$325 for Pop-Up Art 'Snowy House Luminaria'

\$300 for Copley Cats Acapella (they usually donate the cost)

The total for the Youth Programs was \$1360.

\$500 Supplies for Children's Programs

\$360 Supplies for Teen Programs

\$500 Performer for Winter Break

The Final Total requested was \$2485

It was discussed that two programs that were scheduled and funded would not be happening: The Mini Golf Event, which was \$445 and the Yoga Class one time funding of \$120, which is postponed until further notice.

Meghan made a motion to allocate up to \$2000 for the adult and children's programs, Art and Jane seconded the motion, motion passed.

### New Business:

Jane mentioned that she came to help with the St. Pauly's Shed and no one knew where the key was. It's in the cash box in the Friends' desk drawer. Art would like to have a schedule of volunteers. Meghan will give a 'tour' on how to open the shed, straighten things out and close it up. It all depends on how much is there – and that varies greatly!

Someone mentioned asking the Millis Media to do a video of the Library's New Shed.

Jane mentioned that she had a lot of plastic bags and did we want them for the book sale. Sandra said sure.

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Submitted by Julie Ackley