

Friends of the Millis Public Library

Monthly Meeting

January 26, 2026

Called to order at 6:02 pm

Attendees:

In-person: Sandra Elaine Scott – President, Art Payne – Vice President, Meghan Gavaghan – Treasurer, Julie Ackley – Secretary, Kim Tolson – Library Director, Jen Payne

Via Zoom: Jennifer Farrar – Trustee

Acceptance of October 2025 Minutes:

Meghan made a motion to accept, Sandra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

General donations were \$1291. Nancy Sitta made a donation in her nephew's name. St. Pauly's Textile shed was \$224.89! Meghan is going to send them an email that the shed is currently blocked by snow. As of January 26<sup>th</sup>, there are no Adult Programs planned, as the money allocated has been spent.

Director's Report:

Kim noted that the Middle School Programs have been going well with good attendance. There were four events from October to early January.

The October 24 event with Jeff Belanger – Ghosts and Legends – had 52 participants! The Pop Up Art Snowy House Luminaria had 8 participants, with 12 being the capacity. The Holiday Concert with the Copley Cats Acapella group on 53 attendees, and once again, they did not charge the Library for their time.

Over the school holiday break, there were several programs. The Magic and Comedy show by Awesome Robb had 115 attendees!

There are several events scheduled for the month of February. One of the events – Chain Reactions and Creative Contraptions for ages 5-10, is Millis Cultural Council funded.

The Library has been awarded a grant of computing equipment and software through the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's (MBI) Connected & Online Program. The Library will receive 30 devices including desktops, laptops and Chromebooks for public use. This includes DeepFreeze software, Microsoft Office, as well as accessibility software for people with vision and communication disabilities. As part of this grant program, we will be expanding our Chromebook program to allow checkout for home use. This program will be coming in March.

#### Trustee's Report:

There was no report.

#### New Business:

A Novel Occasion is Saturday January 31, 2026 from 12 – 2:30. Jon Lindstrom made a great Instagram post. Diane Barnes, one of the featured authors, came by to pick up her swag box. She took a tour of the Library with Sandra and loved it!

#### Funding Requests – Kim Tolson

Millis Reads 2026 will be titled 'Wild About Reading: Read, Reflect, Reconnect' and features the title 'The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year' by Margaret Renkl. The committee also put together a selection of other recommended titles for different ages and genres all tied into a common theme of animals, nature, and the incredible world we live in. A variety of programs will support these themes. There will be several programs that will be run by staff & volunteers, with no additional costs. The total amount requested for the Millis Reads 2026 is \$1,556. This amount will include the price of the books.

For the Winter/Spring Youth Programming, the funding request was for \$3,175. One of the programs – the Toddler Dance Class – has collaborated with the Millis Dance School. For the event held in the fall, the Millis Dance School donated their time.

It was noted that there was \$600 left over from Youth Programs and \$200 from Millis Reads from last year's funding. Meghan made a motion to approve up to \$2,265 for the Youth Programs and up to \$1,556 for Millis Reads 2026. Sandra seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Meghan mentioned that on Friday February 6, 2026, she and the Jurmains would be taking the remaining books from the fall book sale to Savers in Norwood.

Jennifer requested 'falling apart' books for the February 7<sup>th</sup> event to do a craft. Twenty books were to be put aside for the first 20 attendees for a "Blind date with a book."

#### Spring Book Sale:

The book sale will be March 27<sup>th</sup> – March 29, 2026. Same set up as usual! Jennifer Payne will make sure there is an article in the local paper. Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> starts the set up. Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> after the sale, the remaining books need to be boxed up and returned to the shed. Art is coordinating with Erika Harkey at the High School for volunteers.

#### FMPL Scholarship Class of 2026

Art has a committee to start working on the scholarships. He will contact Erica at the High School. He is looking for more people to join the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Ackley - Secretary