

Belmont Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 26, 2026 via Zoom

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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 15, 2026  
TIME: 3:57 PM

Vice Chair Corinne McCue Olmsted called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m. Trustees Ed Barker, Stephanie Cahoon, Tara Donner and Chair Kathy Keohane were present as were Director Peter Struzziero and Assistant Director Lauren Pfendner. Trustee Gail Mann was not present. There were no members of the public.

#### Review of the Minutes

Trustee Tara Donner motioned to accept the January minutes as amended. Trustee Stephanie Cahoon seconded the motion, which was passed by the Board with Vice Chair Corinne McCue Olmsted abstaining due to her absence in January.

#### Library Updates

The Library opening was exceptional with 10,000 visitors in the first five and a half days. Doorcount software recorded 35,000 people in the first 40 days – during a time of record-breaking snow. The staff is adjusting to the high usage and preparing for increased use in the warmer months.

The four feedback boxes captured over 400 patron responses, the vast majority of which were positive. Staff is working to incorporate suggestions.

The Library continues to experience plumbing issues related to low flush toilets and plumbing placement considerations. It was noted that G&R owns the building until spring and is responsible for the solution. The Building Committee is working with CHA, the architect and the construction firm to resolve the problems.

The Building Committee will remain in place to see the successful completion of the project. The expectation is that final costs will be known by June so that a decision by the town on borrowing authorization can be made. The authorization to borrow was for \$34.5 million and thus far the town has borrowed \$33 million. The hope is that the project will not need to use the full borrowing authorization.

In order to meet patron demand, Morrissey Hall and the Community Classroom are being made available as study and work spaces when not in use for Library programs.

The Director is in conversations with NAASR leadership to generate collaborative events.

Many issues on the punchlist have been addressed with most of the remaining items being relatively minor. There is likely to be a one-day building closure in order to complete wiring for data access in the Library Commons.

#### Meeting Room Policy

The Board discussed minor changes to the proposed Meeting Room Policy with particular attention to building use during election season as well as details regarding reservations. It was noted that the Library maintains political neutrality and provides equal access to candidates, especially in contested races.

Trustee Tara Donner moved to accept the proposed changes. Chair Kathy Keohane seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

#### Building Update

The Building Committee voted to apply funds for modest repairs to the Beech Street Center and Benton Branch. This is in keeping with legal guidance that incidental repairs could be completed with bonded funds.

The Garden Club will receive \$1,000 to enhance plantings surrounding the EV chargers.

The Library will need additional furniture to meet the needs of the high volume of patrons. The Friends may provide funding for these purchases.

#### Liaison Updates

BMC – Work for the Belmont Media Center is complete and will allow them to fully move in.

Historical Society is holding open houses to introduce the public to their collection

Friends – Book store sales are going well. Plans are in process for Mini Golf in March.

Schools – FY 27 budget includes a request for a full-time librarian for BHS and CMS. If hired, this addition would allow for better collaboration with the Library.

#### Future Meeting Dates

March 26 – Belmont Public Library

April – tbd

Vice Chair Corinne McCue Olmsted adjourned the meeting at 7p.m.

#### Attachments

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Room Policy

December 2025 Minutes

