

January 20, 2026

Minutes of the Ashland Public Library Trustees

Present: Chair Claire Goss, Bonnie Mitchell, Linda Weene, Carolyn Bell, Kab Rabinowitz, Director Meena Jain. Assistant Director Lindsay Ward on zoom.

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Minutes of December 16, 2025 was emended and approved.

Lindsay Ward introduced herself as new Assistant Director /Director of Youth Services.

Saturday's programs on the Martin Luther King weekend had 400 people in the Children's Room for crafts at the K-pop Demon Hunters Party. Future programs are being prepared for January exam week, February and April breaks, and for summer reading.

Linda Weene volunteered to be a liaison with the elementary schools.

Budget: The library is in good shape this year. For the FY 2027 budget the Town will go for a school override. There is an on-going discussion of the effects of a level-funded budget on the Town's departments.

The Warrant may be signed with only one signature instead of three, but the trustees will visit the issue at a later meeting.

The desk at the reference area is going to another town department. It will cost \$1000 to move it. A mobile sound-proof study pod is planned for the area. Because it is mobile, it may be moved to another space if necessary. The Carnegie Foundation Grant of \$10,000 will cover the cost of the Study Pod.

The Art Policy is the same. The form is now digital. Trustees will review the library policies. The Art Collection Policy will be reviewed and then discussed in February. The Staff Policy is being prepared.

The MBI Grant, a technology grant, has been approved for 30 new devices.

Programs are being planned for the coming months, including Summer Reading programs and the Halloween Bash.

The library might have to consider providing some programs every other year because of all of the work and cost involved.

Kab will be resigning as a trustee after 25 years.

Adjourned at 8 :05 P.M.

Written and submitted by Trustee Carolyn Bell

Next meeting February 17, 2026