Millis Library Trustee Meeting:

July 14, 2026

The Board of Trustees met in person on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. The agenda was properly posted with the Town of Millis and timely notice was given. Present were Rebecca Fong Hughes (Chairperson), Olivia DiRamio (Trustee) and Kimberly Tolson (Library Director). In Trustee Secretary Jonathan Bernier's absence, Ms. DiRamio recorded meeting minutes.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with Trustee Olivia DiRamio and Library Director Kim Tolson. The Chairperson called the Board's attention to the meeting materials.

First order of business was a discussion of the FY 2027 Budget led by Ms. Tolson. In the new fiscal year, library materials increased; however, it remains at 18% of the total budget, which is the same % as previous year's budget. It was also noted that invoices to be paid will not be sent out until next week due to staff OOO.

Past Programs were reviewed and it was noted that they were generally very well-attended in June. Past programs & service below:

- Tue., 6/9 - Mini Canvas Summer Scene Painting Class with Dimple Shah
- Wed., 6/16 – Queer Q&A for Young Adults
- Thu., 4/23 – Taylor Swift Bingo – 5 attended
- Wed., 6/17 - Toddler Wateprlay (Weekly Program begins) - 40 attended first session
- Tue., 6/9 at 5:30pm - Mini Canvas Summer Scene Painting Class with Dimple Shah
- Tue., 6/16 3:00pm - Queer Q+A for Young Adults (ages 14-18) – 20 attended and had a great discussion with our panel
- Wed., June 17, 10am - Toddler Waterplay (weekly program begins) – 40 attended the first session
- Thu., 6/18 at 4 pm – BINGO for Kids – 4 attended
- Mon., 6/22 at 10:30 am – Millis Memory Cafe – 8 attended
- Mon., 6/22 at 2:30 pm – LEGO Kits (weekly program begins, recommended 5-10) – 12 attended
- Thu., 6/25 at 6:30 pm - Harry Potter Trivia for Adults (kids welcome too) – 22 attended

- Fri., 6/26 at 10 am – Abrikidabra with Mike Bent – 200 attended
- Fri., 6/26 at 6 pm – Diamond Painting Coasters for Teens – 8 attended

Upcoming Programs

- Fri., 7/17 at 6 pm – Teen Movie Night: Blank Check
- Thurs., 7/30 at 6:30 pm – BINGO for Kids
- Thurs., 7/23 at 4:00 pm - Creative Corner begins (weekly programs)
- Fri., 7/31 at 6:30 pm - Origami for Middle School
- Fri., 8/7 at 6:00 pm - Teen Hangout

The summer reading programs are active, and there is a lot of interest in Adult Bingo. The Summer Reading Store will open next week for kids to start collecting prizes. Additionally, in total 30 kids have signed up for Battle of Books, which is a record number as compared to previous years.

Additional topics within Director's Report included:

- Exterior Painting Project - Project awarded to New England Painting. The project should not interfere with the library's main entrance.
- Water leak repair due to holes from solar panels. Ongoing assessment/communication regarding repair reimbursement from solar panel company.
- Collections - Ms. Tolson stated that the library decided not to renew Freegal (music streaming) account due to only 14 users and 3K USD per year cost. For those who still seek access, Freegle can be attained via BPL eCard. It was noted Kanopy has been getting good usage.
- MPL Friend - Last meeting was held on Wed, 6/24. The Friends voted on the Executive Board. Changes to board are as follows: Wendy Barry as Asst Treasurer, Jennifer Farrar as VP, and Art Payne as Asst Recording Secretary. They honored scholarship recipient, Mia Young, and discussed potential dates for fall book sale. Lastly, Diana N. has been working on business sponsorships and was able to procure gifts/donations in the amount of roughly ~$1750. The library plans to acknowledge this in the upcoming e-newsletter.

Ms. Tolson went over several potential Capital Funding projects that can be covered potentially utilizing the library's state aid account (~118K USD):

- Outdoor signage to direct people into the parking lot from Rt 109. Would likely need Select Board approval. Potential to use existing poles on street corners (town lampost or pedestrian Xing sign post).
- Soundproofing in two study rooms. Ms. Tolson had reached out to the Minute Man email list about vendor and project cost.
- Children's play space refresh - examples include a new interactive center, marble run, and/or magnetic games.
- Sofa/storage for staff room
- Outdoor furniture

Old Business topics were reviewed:

- Adoption of FY26/27 Director Goals - Chair acknowledged the review of goals from previous month and agreed to move forward with finalizing, as written below:
    1. Continue to seek out new funding opportunities.
        - Apply to at least two grants in FY27.
        - Work with the Friends group to evaluate and prioritize fundraising efforts.
    2. Work with the Board of Trustees to create a plan for future use of State Aid funding.
    3. Expand engagement with new and existing town leaders, department heads, and municipal boards through ongoing outreach, communication, and education about library services, operations, and funding needs.
    4. Create advocacy campaigns for the remainder of funding for Teen Services Assistant in the FY28 budget and include youth stories and perspectives.

Millis Community Day will be held on 8/20/26 from 4-8PM. Ms. Tolson, Becky Fong and Olivia DiRamio plan to be in attendance. Ms. Tolson registered for a booth and tent. Activity planning underway.

Fall Book Sale will be held on October 16th to 18th.

Next Trustee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8/4.

There being no other business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting

Meeting called to a close at 8:08 pm.

A true record

Olivia Sahnas DiRamio
Trustree