

Greenfield Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of July 14, 2026 meeting

5:05 p.m. meeting called to order

Roll call trustees present: Jim Zaccara, Sarah Ahearn Bellemare, Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyka, Bill Benson, Ann Dillon, Samantha Wood

Not present: Doris Cowdrey

Public Comment: None made

Approval of Minutes from June meeting.

Bill moved to approve minutes. Sarah seconded.

Approve, unanimous.

Friends Report:

Jonathan updates trustees from the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library in Paul Jablon's absence.

Restaurant Raffle Committee has collected commitments from 18 restaurants. In process of printing tickets and posters.

The sign-up process is underway for volunteers for ticket sales during the Franklin County Fair.

The Friends kiosk for inside the library is almost complete.

The Friends annual meeting was held in June and new officers were elected, signalling a new generation of leadership, and many new members.

Information Services Librarian Nancy Little updated trustees on artificial intelligence and collection development policies. She pointed to language in the policy for the Cranston, Rhode Island public library. Language for a policy will be presented to trustees in a future meeting for consideration of adoption.

In keeping with traditional observance of summer holiday, the August trustees meeting will be suspended unless an urgent need arises.

Anna updates

Grant activities:

The Seed Library has been supported by the Greenfield Garden Club. Memory Care Kits are supported by Life Path.

An application to Community Development Block Grant funds for \$40,000 to support a part-time social worker has cleared its first hurdle.

Strategic Plan: The strategic planning process is moving along a steady pace. First two focus groups have been held.

There are small interviews with 1-2 people each to be held after focus groups.

Library values statements and mission statements were reviewed, for vote at next meeting.

Old Business

New fiscal year brings a tighter budget, as it does across the city departments.

The library has sold a self-check machine to another library. It didn't find much use in our library and we could not afford the maintenance fees.

Solar energy system: Walk through showed everything is up and running. There is a public portal that display the energy production the solar system produces from the library. Almost 30% of the library's electricity is generated by the solar system.

The replacement of the digital sign out front with a different, likely analog, option is in progress.

Library ground maintenance has been occasional. City Hall has requested that departments keep the outside of their buildings clean. Volunteers may be needed to help.

Summer Eat Program is great - very positive partnership.

Behavior Concerns

There is a new wave of disobedient or poorly behaved individuals visiting the library. There is a noted dog problem currently, with people bringing dogs into the library. There is no good definition of a service dog and this leaves too wide a gap for the general public to abuse this.

The next meeting will be September 8, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Bill. Seconded by Jim.

Approved unanimously.

6:05 p.m. adjourned.