

# Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes March 19, 2026, at the Jean Picker Room

## Attendance

**Board Members Present:** Will Dailey, Erin Donovan, Patty Eddy, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Shelley Howe, Liz Senders, Heather Shanklin, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia, Kendra Watkins, Christina Young.

**Board Members Present via ZOOM:** Larry Ward

**Board Members Absent:** Silvio Calabi, Jeremy Pratt

**Non-Board Members Present:** Kristy Kilfoyle, Allison McKellar

A quorum was established for the meeting.

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Natalie Travia, President. She began the session by reading the Camden Public Library's Mission Statement and led a Connections activity.

The Connections activity was designed to help board members become better acquainted with one another. The theme for this session was "Medieval Owls." The activity was quick and enjoyable.

## Agenda Items

### Public Comment

No public comments were received.

### February Minutes, March 5 Budget Meeting Minutes

The minutes from February were approved. The minutes from the March 5 Budget Meeting were also approved, with edits.

### Introduction of Newest Board Member & Update

Shelley Howes was welcomed as the newest board member. Jeremy Pratt has resigned from the board due to health reasons. He was scheduled to finish his term in January 2027.

## Director's Report

The library budget has advanced beyond the initial review by the town budget committee and will next be considered by the select board. The next select board meeting is scheduled for April 7. Trustees are invited to attend the meeting.

After more than 17 years of service, Susan Damore is leaving her position as bookkeeper. Greg Mudd has been hired as her replacement, and Susan will remain temporarily to assist with the transition. Greg recently relocated from California, where he worked with a nonprofit senior center. He brings experience and proficiency with QuickBooks Online to the position.

The library will celebrate its 130th anniversary on Monday, March 23. This marks the date when the town voted to establish a free public library. In celebration for our community to enjoy, 130 mini cupcakes will be delivered to the rotunda on Friday, as the cupcake shop will be closed on Monday.

## Treasurer's Report

Heather Shanklin, Treasurer, shared that she is looking forward to collaborating with Greg Mudd. Their discussions reveal like-minded ideas on presenting financial information, aiming to make reports more user-friendly and accessible for those less familiar with financial documents.

The finance review vendor has significantly increased their rates, which seems to be excessive. As a result, alternative vendors will be considered.

Year-to-date finances show a \$70,000 improvement compared to the previous year.

## Development Committee

No report was provided at this time.

## Art Auction – Camden on Canvas

Artists for the event have been selected. Arrangements for the caterer, tents, and auctioneer are all confirmed. Outreach efforts to engage business sponsors are currently in progress.

## Book Sale

A shed sale is scheduled for April 19. The library has also received a significant donation from Down East Magazine, which includes a collection of fly-fishing books.

## Nomination Committee

There will be an opening to consider for the Board, as noted above.

## Facilities and Grounds

No updates were presented.

## Old Business

A job description for a Student Trustee position will be developed, with the goal of involving a student in the Board's activities starting next fall.

## Dam/Seawall Grant & Project Planning

The town received the grant agreement on March 19. The plan is to present project metrics and a monitoring plan to the select board on April 7. The period of performance for the grant begins in June, and a request has been made to allow reimbursement for work conducted before the official start date. The project previously received a \$1.6 million design grant, and contracting delays have been a concern.

Interfluve will serve as the primary budget and controller, will approve payment requests, provide a designated point person, and oversee subcontractors to prevent cost overruns.

Kristy is finalizing the budget and selection of subcontractors and will set up a meeting with Mike Burke. An onsite construction or project manager has not been hired yet, but the creation of a construction manager role is anticipated.

The library will lead most project-related decisions, with Blake guiding the final 10% of design and communications. Building owners, led by Amy LaCouture, are mostly supportive, although some owners remain uncertain.

The Army Corps' nationwide permitting system has been revised. This project will be the first dam removal permitted under the new guidelines and will likely qualify as maintenance or ecological restoration rather than a large hydropower project. The seawall likely does not require a federal permit since no work will be done above or below the current high-water mark, but state permitting is still necessary.

## New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

## Executive Session

No executive session was held.

## Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Camden Public Library Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 4:45 PM and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Eddy