

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes February 19, 2026, | Conducted via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members Present: Silvio Calabi, Will Dailey, Patty Eddy, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Jeremy Pratt, Liz Senders, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia, Larry Ward, Kendra Watkins, Christina Young.

Board Members Absent: Erin Donovan, Heather Shanklin.

Non-Board Members Present: Kristy Kilfoyle.

A quorum was established for the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Natalie Travia, who began by reading Camden Public Library's Mission Statement.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

No public comments were received.

Approval of January Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were approved via email vote on February 12, 2026.

Director's Report

Kristy reported that Russell has a new baby and all is well.

She attended an organizer meeting in Portland last week for the Declaration of Independence Program that will be traveling throughout the state. More information will be shared as details become available.

The budget was sent to the Board just before the meeting, and the Board will vote on it via email after reviewing.

There is a possibility of a larger grant amount from the Brand Grant.

Camden Public Library's current bookkeeper will be stepping back by summer, and two interviews for a replacement are scheduled later this month. Susan will remain to help with the transition to the new bookkeeper.

Treasurer's report – Kristy report on Heather's behalf added:

We are at 97% of our development goal YTD.

An unexpected donation of \$10K arrived last week.

We will break even for the year.

Committee Reports

Development Committee

The next meeting is in April. Meanwhile, please consider who to ask to be future Millay members.

Camden on Canvas

Natalie Travia reported that thirty artists have applied to participate in the upcoming auction. A committee meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2026 @ 9AM. More volunteers are needed for both the committee and the event. Jennifer Gromada volunteered to assist.

Book Sale

Larry Ward shared that the book sale held at the shed during Winter Fest was a success. Over the five hours of the event, \$3,000 was raised. Customers responded positively to the new shed layout and the quality of books. Notably, a signed copy of *Fahrenheit 451* sold for \$600. A heartfelt thank you was extended to all who contributed to the event.

Nominating Committee

Shelley Howes and Paul Karoff were nominated to join the Camden Public Library Board. Motions to approve their nominations passed unanimously.

Liz Senders was unanimously approved for a second term on the Board.

Lee Scheuer was unanimously approved to serve on the Centennial Committee.

Facilities and Grounds Committee

Silvio Calabi reported that the committee is actively researching the history, work, and design plans of the amphitheater. With a substantial amount of information to review, the committee plans to organize and digitize the documents for easier assembly in the future.

A spring clean-up of the park will be organized.

A mission statement for the committee is being worked on. Once finalized, it will be presented to the Board.

Budget Discussion

Some members reviewed the budget prior to the meeting and raised questions and comments. The proposed budget is larger than in previous years, prompting concerns about its acceptance by the Town. The significant increase means the Board will need to commit to robust fundraising efforts. A major expense related to health insurance, specifically family coverage, led to a discussion about whether such coverage is reasonable and beneficial for staff retention. Kristy Kilfoyle will research options and provide an update for the Board's review.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Camden Public Library Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:04 PM and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Eddy