

Draft of Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting of September 17, 2026

Salem, Massachusetts

September 17, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held via Zoom on this date at 4:10pm with Trustees April, Austin, Lutts, Rourke, and Trustee Buckley present and presiding. Mayor Pangallo and Trustee Morin were absent. Miss Mansfield was present.

Approval of draft minutes from June 18, 2026 UNANIMOUS.

John Hermanski addressed the Board and proposed a gift to address the issues with the library's fences. The Trustees will consider the proposal.

Current Library Use reports were distributed. Salem was fifth highest in NOBLE for circulation of physical items during June and July, and third highest in August. Salem was second highest in Overdrive/Libby circulation during June, July, and August. Miss Mansfield reported that the Temporary Resident Permit Parking ban went into effect on September 15th, which meant that patrons could no longer park on Essex Street on weekdays after 5pm or weekends after 12pm.

Miss Mansfield reported that the library would have a delayed opening on Friday, September 18th at 12:00pm due to staff training. She noted that the fall program session begins on Monday, September 21st and that adult yoga would return in November when evening parking is restored.

Financial reports were distributed. Miss Mansfield reported that nine fountain bags were sold in September, and that an order had been placed to replenish the supply. Trustee Rourke suggested creating a printed QR code to put inside the bags that would allow people to learn more about the fountain's history and how they can support the ongoing maintenance the fountain.

Miss Mansfield reported that the Brownstone Stairs project was running behind schedule, but noted that the Historic Commission needed to approve many facets of the project before it could move forward. She noted that there was an issue with the HVAC system again with glycol leaking, which would likely be expensive to fix.

Trustee Buckley proposed that the Trustees make a tribute to Miss Selina Little. Trustee Rourke volunteered to help.

Trustee Rourke reported that the Poet Laureate Selection Committee had hosted a public reading and recommended a candidate for the new Poet Laureate. Trustee Buckley reported that HSI was hosting a Preservation Award ceremony on Tuesday.

Adjourned 5:29pm.