



Town of South Kingstown

Library Board of Trustees

Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Kingston Free Library
Potter Hall - 2nd Floor
2605 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI
www.southkingstownri.gov

1. Call to Order & Roll Call:

2. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Regular Meeting — February 10, 2026

3. Correspondence

- A. Financial Disclosure Request — R.I. Ethics Commission

Members have received letters from the Ethics Commission requesting information. Laurel reported Library Trustees are exempt as of a 2020 ruling. Laurel will reach out to Michele Berg to get verification and report back.

4. Public Comment

Elizabeth McNab reported that as a member of the Kingston Fire District Wardens she fills out an Ethics report. She also spoke on her pride in the Board of Trustees and the Library staff regarding their efforts during the Peace Dale renovations.

5. President's Report

Tim reported that he spoke with Jen Ferry of the South County Art Association. The transfer of the John Russell House should happen in 3-4 months.

They have received a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts for \$200,000 to hire an architect.

6. Director's Report

Laurel reported on the storm closings of Feb. 7th, 23rd, 24th, & the late opening on the 25th.

Laurel thanked the staff for their efforts during the renovations.

Mary Ann Comstock has applied for a \$4000.00 Potter Grant (Mary LaPoint) for the Kingston Branch to fund various programs.

7. Statistics

Hale Branch has doubled loans since Peace Dale closed and there have been 500 auto renewals.

8. Project and Grants Updates

- A. Community Learning Center

- Temporary Closure Status
- Parking Lot Expansion
- Roof Replacement

- Laurel is hoping to open the Peace Dale branch the second week in April. Cleaning is to start on April 6th and

7th, with re-stocking to follow. Computers in the Annex will be moved back to the branch. Messaging and signage will be put up after the Peace Dale branch opens. Kingston and Hale branches will have signage about returning to their normal hours ahead of time, so patrons can make arrangements. The paintings and chandeliers are ready to be re-installed.

- Parking lot tree work will take place on March 25 & 26. The Historical Commission has approved the work. They will require some kind of delineation marking where the wall originally stood.
- The Town Council has approved \$224,231 for a new roof on Peace Dale. Liz questioned the number of bids and the wide cost estimates. Laurel felt it is because companies have different plans to meet federal requirements for various programs/regulations. Costs are part of the original grant funding request.

9. FY2026-2027 Budget

The FY2026/2027 budget will be \$1,579,958.00 which is a 2.91% increase. The increase will cover wages/benefits, software maintenance and the Non-Major Technology Fund.

Liz questioned the amount of money spent on new books per year. Laurel said it is approximately \$50,000.

The Town Council is scheduled to do preliminary budget adoption on March 18, 2026.

10. Next Meeting:

Hilary brought up Staff Appreciation Day, (April 21, 2026).

Hilary made a motion to discuss it, Liz seconded. Motion carried.

The last two years, Board members have donated \$10.00 per member to provide snacks for the staff. This will be placed on the April agenda for action.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2026

A. April 14, 2026

11. Adjournment: