

**Meeting of
The Morse Institute Library
Board of Trustees
February 9, 2026
Community Room and Virtual via Zoom**

Call to Order: 3:02 PM by roll call

Trustees Present: Kathleen Donovan, Carol Gloff, Gerry Mazor, Sally McCoubrey, and Anna McMahan

Administration Present: Miki Wolfe, Director; Ruth Link, Assistant Director; Jane Ellen Newman, Community Relations Coordinator

Staff Present: Jenn Belcher, Information Services Supervisor; Tricia Bates, Circulation Supervisor; Dale Smith, Children's Services Supervisor

Guest: Jillian Wilson-Martin, Town of Natick Director of Sustainability

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting was made by S. McCoubrey and seconded by A. McMahan. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call (5-0-0).

Public Speak: None.

Public Art Project: Jillian Wilson-Martin distributed updated handouts describing the planned project, "A Home for Our Future Generations," the project schedule and a press release to announce the project (see attachments). She summarized the project and the steps involved. The press release was planned to be distributed the next day (February 13). The following motion was made by K. Donovan and seconded by S. McCoubrey:

"Move to approve the installation of the public art project, A Home for Our Future Generations, on the library's front lawn in May 2026, followed by deinstallation by the end of August 2026." The motion was approved unanimously (5-0-0) by a roll call vote.

(J. Wilson-Martin left the meeting.)

President's Report:

- K. Donovan requested that we reschedule the March meeting to March 23. Board members agreed (no vote was taken).

- K. Donovan reported on several State and Federal funding developments for libraries.
 - In MA Governor Healy's FY27 budget proposal, a 2% increase in each of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' budget lines is proposed.
 - The US Congress passed a spending bill containing an increase in money for libraries.
 - On January 19, the Trump administration filed an appeal to negate the court-ordered injunction against dismantling/severely restructuring the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Director's Report:

- Facilities Updates
 - HVAC monitoring and adjustments continue. Few corrections were necessary in January.
 - The back elevator is still out of service, but repair work is underway.
 - There is no new information to report on the Children's/Morse Room carpeting project.
 - An ice dam in the library stairwell, leading to water leakage, is being addressed by the Facilities team.
 - The name "Morse Public Library" showing on the screens of the new A/V system will be corrected to read "Morse Institute Library."
- General Updates
 - The Director of the Bacon Free Library is retiring at the end of February. Director Wolfe participated in two rounds of interviews for the new Director. A candidate has been selected, hiring negotiations are underway.
 - All paperwork for a Connected and Online grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been completed. The delivery date for the pieces of technology is February 10.
 - Efforts to obtain Sustainable Libraries certification continue. The staff survey and energy/waste audits are in progress.
 - A Sensitive Subjects webpage has been launched, to help users find information on subjects they may not feel comfortable talking with others about. The webpage includes a quick escape button to protect the privacy of the user.
 - Two library employees have been in the news. Laura Cerier has been learning about ice fishing from Dave Rines, and has published an article about her experience.
 - S. McCoubrey reported that Dale Smith made an outstanding presentation on children's books relevant to Black History Month.

Meeting adjourned: A motion to adjourn, made by S. McCoubrey and seconded by C. Gloff, was unanimously approved (5-0-0) at 3:31 PM by roll call.

Materials Distributed:

FINAL DESIGN: A Home for Our Future Generations

Home for Future Generations: Calendar of Community Art-making Events in Natick

Framingham and Natick Announce Participatory Public Art Project (Press Release)