

**Abington Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees**

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026

Called to Order 7:02 pm

**Attendees:**

Henry DiCarlo, Chair  
Gail Bergin, Vice Chair  
Laura Brink  
Sue Crowley  
Jake O'Neill  
Gerry Haas  
John Leahy  
Mary Gillis  
Deborah Grimmett, Library Director

**Absent:**

Barbara McLaughlin

**Guest:**

Michael Maresco, Interim Town Manager

Discussion with the Interim Town Manager and introduction of the board members. Michael Maresco attended the meeting through the discussion of current library issues.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- Minutes of the meeting held on November 3, 2025, were reviewed by the Board. **MOTION to approve November 3, 2025 minutes was made by Sue, seconded by Laura, and accepted unanimously. Gerry, John and Mary abstained.**

**Chairman's Report**

- State Budget Earmark Update: Abington Public Library (APL) received the procedures we need to follow to be eligible for \$8,000 in grant money. All funds need to be expended by the end of the fiscal year. Fifty percent of the

funds will be paid up front, and the remainder to be reimbursed when the funds are expended. Board discussed options for spending money and Deb will get cost estimates.

### **Library Director's Report**

- Monthly Financial Report: Financial Report was reviewed. Library on track with spending. The closure of book distributor Baker and Taylor has not had an impact on APL because we have historically not used them for book purchases.
- Statistical Report: The board reviewed the statistics for the past three months. October and November were the busiest months of the year.
- Friends Update: Planning the book sale for April 25<sup>th</sup> which is town election day. Donations will be accepted starting in early April. They will be selling tote bags. Membership drive for Friends has begun.
- Programming Update: Registration started for Winter/Spring children's programs and most of them are full. Foot traffic in the library has started to pick back up after the holidays.

### **Building Issues**

- A/C Study: Still waiting for update from Town Hall.
- Main Space Light Switches/Circ Desk Lights: Ockers not interested in the project so APL looking for an electrician.
- Outdoor Benches: Deb attended Community Preservation Committee meeting. The application for the outdoor benches has been accepted, and we are now waiting to see if they will vote to fund the project.
- Mechanical Room Lock: Recently the mechanical room lock malfunctioned resulting in staff/contractors being locked into the room several times. A locksmith was brought in to fix the door handle.

### **Current Library Issues**

- IMLS/MBLC Update: On November 21 there was a federal appeals court ruling that required the funding of IMLS. We will not have any funding for this year, and database money will not be available.
- FY27 Budget Level Funding Impacts: Based on the level funded we will be looking for an override of just short of \$15,000. The level funded budget will

meet the state aid requirements but there will be impacts to the operation of APL. The level funded budget will result in any reduction in force. Trustees discussed options for cutting costs from the budget.

### **Old Business**

- Borrowing Policies OCLN Standardization Update: Trustees of the Hingham Public Library sent a letter to the OCLN E-board asking that they rescind the vote on standardizing the borrowing policies and threatening to file a lawsuit if they do not. OCLN has contacted their lawyers and plans to move forward based on the results of the vote.
- OCLN ILS Transition Timeline: The go live date is Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>. Training has already begun for APL staff. The transition will result in APL modifying check out procedures for the three days when the system is offline but APL will remain open.
- Abington Reads 2026: The book will be The Rembrandt Heist by Anthony Amore. He will discuss his book at APL on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

### **New Business**

- Annual Town Report: Due February 6<sup>th</sup> to Town Hall. Trustees reviewed some of the information that will be included in the Town Report.
- LibraryIQ Impact Grant: The grant will allow the reference library to analyze the books the library has on the shelves and to identify areas where new books could be purchased. The reference librarian secured the grant.
- Photo Release Policy and Form: The board reviewed the updated Photo Release Policy and Form. **MOTION to approve the updated Photo Release Policy and Form was made by Mary, seconded by Sue, and accepted unanimously.**

**Next Meetings:**    **February 2 @ 7 pm**  
                         **March 9 @ 7 pm**  
                         **April 13 @ 7 pm**  
                         **May 4 @ Town Meeting**

**MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:57 pm by Gerry, seconded by Gail, and accepted unanimously.**