

**Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees**

Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025 Called to Order 7:00 pm

Attendees:

Henry DiCarlo, Chair
Gail Bergin, Vice Chair
Laura Brink
Gerry Haas
Barbara McLaughlin
Jake O'Neill
Sue Crowley
Mary Gillis
Deborah Grimmett, Library Director
One Vacant Position

Visitors: Non-voting attendees

Stephen Platka – Cub Scout Leader (left meeting after he presented)
John Leahy – Potential candidate for open position

Guest Speaker – Cub Scout Chess Project

- Steph Platka Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 41 came in to discuss the desire of two of his scouts to make a chess table outside the library for patrons to play chess. Would be full sized picnic table with two granite chess boards set into the top. The board discussed the proposition. **MOTION to allow the Scouts to build a chess table was made by Gerry, seconded by Sue and accepted unanimously with visitors not voting.**

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2025 were reviewed by the Board. **MOTION to approve the January 13, 2025 minutes was made by Sue,**

seconded by Gail, and accepted unanimously.

Chairman's Report

- Personnel subcommittee met to discuss succession planning. Discussed potential openings in the library. The outcome of the meeting indicated that the library is in good shape with a strong list of potential employees and no immediate upcoming potential departures.
- Deb and Henry attended the Finance Committee and answered questions. No issues identified.

Library Director's Report

- Monthly Financial Report: Library is in good shape and no line items are in trouble.
- Statistical Report: Circulation numbers for the past several months have been strong. January circulation was the same compared to prior year which was a good sign since the month was colder with more cold and snow. Circulation for 2024 was reviewed and it was the strongest post-COVID year and has reached pre-COVID levels. Registrations have also started to increase.
- Friends Update: February Friends Meeting was cancelled, and they will meet in March. Book sale still scheduled for April 26.
- OCLN Update: Integrated Library System task force still working on selecting vendors.
- Programming Update: Ted Reinstein will be at the library on Monday March 3rd discussing his new book, Travels Through the Heart and Soul of New England: Stories of Struggle. Matt York will be at the Library on March 10th, and on the morning of March 8th the South Shore Writers will host a local authors fair.

Building Issues

- Roof: Nothing to report.

- Lobby Deep Clean: Several weeks ago, the lobby developed a foul odor. Stephco completed a deep cleaning of the lobby for less than \$300 and the odor disappeared.
- Electrical Issues: Library contracted with a new electrician who did some work on several electrical issues. Ordered a new part for the emergency lights in the bathrooms near the circulation desk which are not working.
- A/C Study: Status quo.

Current Library Issues

- Website Update: Moving forward with new vendor.
- Abington Reads: Programs include daytime book discussion (nighttime book discussions may be added), dean from Massasoit Community College will be at the library to discuss Native Identity. Author Program will be on April 6th.
- Town Wage and Classification Study: No update.

Old Business

- Budget FY26: The library received no feedback or request to modify the submitted budget to date.

New Business

- Implications of Federal Cuts to Institute of Museum of Library Services: Library asked by the Town Manager to review the impact of federal budget cuts on the library. The Board reviewed the provided documentation concerning the library services that could potentially be impacted. No action is necessary at this time.
- Revolving Fund Articles for Town Meeting: The Board reviewed and discussed the revolving funds. **MOTION to approve the revolving fund articles for inclusion in the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting was made by Jake, seconded by Barbara and accepted unanimously.**
- AHU Study Capital Article for Town Meeting: The Board reviewed and discussed the AHU article. **MOTION to approve the AHU Study Capital article for inclusion in the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting was made by Gail, seconded by Mary and accepted unanimously.**

- Policy on Commercial Partnerships Update: The Board reviewed the policy. **MOTION to approve the updated Policy on Commercial Partnerships was made by Laura, seconded by Sue and accepted unanimously.**
- Summer Hours: The Board discussed the summer hours. The Library will be closing on Saturdays beginning June 21, 2025 and with Saturday hours resuming on September 6, 2025. Library will close at 5:00 pm on Thursday July 3rd and remain closed for the July 4th Holiday. **MOTION to approve the Holiday and Summer Library Hours was made by Mary, seconded by Barbara and accepted unanimously.**
- Emergency Policy Update: Deb still working on creating a policy.
- Sue presented with a copy of the book that the board purchased for her grandchildren and had added to the collections for the Abington and Milton Public Libraries.

Next Meetings: March 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

April 7, 2025 at 6:30 pm. (Town Meeting – High School)

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:18 pm by Gerry, seconded by Laura and accepted unanimously.