

**Abington Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees**

Meeting Minutes                      May 12, 2025                      Called to Order 7:02 pm

**Attendees:**

Gail Bergin, Vice Chair  
Sue Crowley  
Barbara McLaughlin  
Laura Brink  
Jake O'Neill  
Gerry Haas  
John Leahy  
Deborah Grimmatt, Library Director

**Absent:**

Henry DiCarlo, Chair  
Mary Gillis

**Reorganization of the Board**

- Control of the meeting was transferred to Deb Grimmatt to vote on reorganization of the board.
- Nominees for Chair were opened. **Henry DiCarlo was nominated in absentia for Chairman by Mary; it was seconded by Barbara, and he was unanimously elected.**
- Nominees for Vice Chair were opened. **Gail Bergin was nominated for Vice Chair by Gerry; it was seconded by Laura, and she was unanimously elected.**
- Control of the meeting was transferred back to newly elected Vice Chair Gail.
- Nominees for Secretary were opened. **Jake O'Neill was nominated for Secretary by Laura; it was seconded by John, and he was unanimously elected.**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- Minutes of the meeting held on April 7, 2025, were reviewed by the Board.  
**MOTION to approve the April 7, 2025, minutes was made by Gerry, seconded by Mary, and accepted unanimously, John abstained.**

### **Chairman's Report**

- Gail provided a copy of a letter written by Henry who is not in attendance. The letter congratulated members who won their election for library trustee.

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

- Monthly Financial Report: APL is on plan for salaries and supplies. The Book budget is actually slightly overbudget.
- Statistical Report: The Board reviewed the updated statistical reports. Physical checkouts were down but digital checkouts were up probably due to the poor weather and patrons not coming out in the rain.
- Friends Update: Held their last meeting for the current fiscal year. The book fair and bake sale made a total of \$964. They were able to sell all of the 80+ jigsaw puzzles they had available.
- OCLN Update: Integrated Library System task force still working. They have selected vendors, and they are being reviewed by library staff.

### **Building Issues**

- Plumbing: There were issues in some of the sinks; Gouthro Plumbing fixed the sinks and relit the pilot for the hot water heater.
- Copeland Room Lights: Bulbs in the Copeland Room have been replaced so lighting is a lot better in the room.
- A/C Study: The cost for the study was approved at Town Meeting and the contractor has been notified to begin the project and we are awaiting scheduling update.
- Roof: No update.
- Outdoor Benches: They are in tough shape and need to be replaced. One has been missing for years and one is currently unsafe. A subcommittee including Laura, Jake and Henry will look into replacing the benches.

### **Current Library Issues**

- Summer Reading: Trustees reviewed the schedule for the summer reading program. Summer reading Kick-Off is on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00.
- IMLS/MBLC Update: Emails go to the Trustees so we should all be getting updates. Deb should know more about funding impacts due to changes made by the current administration after the conference next week.

### **Old Business**

- Website Transition Update: The first pass of the updated website has been created and looks similar to the current website, which was the plan. Staff is reviewing the website and will provide feedback to the contractor.

### **New Business**

- Summer StoryWalk®: Founders Day weekend is first week in June and the plan will be for the walk to be installed before that weekend. The first will be Blue Sky White Stars.
- FY25 State Aid Spending to Date: Trustees reviewed the State Aid Summary. Deb will develop a list of suggested expenditures for State Aid.
- End of FY25 Finances: Financially APL will end FY25 in good shape.
- FY27 Early Budget Planning: The economic climate for FY27 is currently unknown so the library will be careful with spending to put the library in a good position going into FY27.
- Databases: Statewide Databases used by APL borrowers cost the state \$2.9 million per year in federal funds. Last year Abington residents and students had almost 10,000 searches using the databases that are currently paid for by the federal government, but that money has been cut. There is currently no option for Abington Public Library to pay for access to these databases.

**Next Meetings:**    **June 9<sup>th</sup>**  
                               **July 14<sup>th</sup>**  
                               **September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:01 pm by Gerry, seconded by Mary and accepted unanimously.**