

**Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees**

Meeting Minutes June 9, 2025 Called to Order 7:01 pm

Attendees:

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Minutes of the meeting held on May 12, 2025, were reviewed by the Board.
**MOTION to approve the May 12, 2025 minutes was made by Sue,
seconded by John, and accepted unanimously, Mary and Henry abstained.**

Chairman's Report

- Henry thanked Gail for taking over responsibilities for running last month's meeting.
- Henry also thanked the staff and volunteers who helped install the StoryWalk®
- Sub-Committee assignments were reviewed and remained the same for the upcoming year.

Library Director's Report

- Monthly Financial Report: APL salary budget and supplies are on schedule to end the year in good shape.

- Statistical Report: The Board reviewed the updated statistical reports. Total Circulation in May was similar to that in April. Website hits were up by almost 50% which is likely due to Website updates which were reviewed by staff.
- Friends Update: Currently on summer hiatus and next meeting will be in September.
- OCLN Update:
 - OCLN is currently the only public library network that does not have standardized circulation rules. Patrons are starting to push back on why there are different circulation rules between libraries. A Circulation Standardization meeting was held during the Spring and a draft was developed and will be further reviewed.
 - OCLN still reviewing integrated library systems (ILS). The ILS committee will be reviewing staff feedback forms on the systems that were reviewed.
 - New Assessment formula is being rolled out for OCLN which should help the APL since APL is a net lender.
 - The departure of Eastern Nazarene College will impact the assessment of OCLN costs for remaining libraries.
- Programming Update: Adult programming winding down except for pop fiction and non-fiction book discussions and craft night. Looking at doing a metal smithing workshop for adults. Competitive puzzling is becoming more popular, and attendance at the first two meetings was good.
- MLA Conference Update: Deb and Rob both found the conference helpful and educational. Deb was able to make contacts to support upcoming activities at APL. Next year's conference is in Danvers.

Building Issues

- A/C Study: Deb checked in with Scott and no update at this point.
- Roof: No update.
- Outdoor Benches: Broken bench has been removed. John Stone recommends composite benches. The plan will be to put in a CPA grant for replacing library and Town Hall benches. Grants are due in September.

Deb will look on the Mass Higher Ed buying group to see what they have for bench options.

Current Library Issues

- Summer Reading Program: Summer reading Kick-Off is scheduled for June 18th from 1:00 to 3:00. Lots of programs already scheduled. Sandy and Heidi are working long hours to get things up and running.
- IMLS/MBLC Update: Maureen Amyot, director of MBLC, talked about the IMLS Cuts and what can be done at the state level. State MLS/MBLC put together some statewide statistics that show databases most used by APL are also most used statewide. State will be reallocating \$500,000 from money given to library networks for eBooks to be used to cover the cost of the most utilized databases but some databases will no longer be available. This transfer will result in OCLN losing roughly \$50,000 for eBooks.
- FY27 Early Budget Planning: Meeting in late June will be held by the town managers to discuss the FY27 budget which is expected to be difficult.
- StoryWalk® is up thanks to a group of staff and volunteers. Heidi walked it on Sunday, and it survived the heavy rains from the previous night.

Old Business

- Website Transition Update: New Website is scheduled to go live in August.
- Databases: Rob looked into pricing of databases that APL uses that will not be covered by the state. APL uses Peterson's Career and Test Prep on a regular basis. It would cost \$2,900 a year for APL to pay for it's use. Deb and Rob working with other OCLN libraries to see if we could reduce the cost by getting more libraries to buy the database.
- End of FY25 Finances: APL has spent the budget, and any extra money needed for expenses will be taken from State Aid.

New Business

- Policy for Providing Access to Minutes of Town Boards and Committees: Town policies have changed about when Meeting Minutes have to be made available. Deb waiting for update from the Town Clerk on how the policy changes will impact library policy on meeting minutes.

- Volunteer Policy: The board reviewed the Volunteer Policy. **MOTION to approve the updated Volunteer Policy was made by Barbara, seconded by Gail, and accepted unanimously.**

Next Meetings: July 14th

September 8th

MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:27 pm by Gerry, seconded by Mary and accepted unanimously.