

**Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees**

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2025

Called to Order 7:02 pm

Attendees:

Henry DiCarlo, Chair
Gail Bergin, Vice Chair
Barbara McLaughlin
Mary Gillis
Laura Brink
Gerry Haas
John Leahy
Sue Crowley
Deborah Grimmatt, Library Director

Absent:

Jake O'Neill, Secretary

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Minutes of the meeting held on July 14, 2025 were reviewed by the Board.
MOTION to approve July 14, 2025 minutes was made by Sue and seconded by Mary and accepted unanimously with Gail and Barbara abstaining.

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report

Library Director's Report

- Monthly Financial and Statistical Reports: Everything is fine. Deb is especially pleased with how much has been spent on the book line. Statistical report was unavailable but will be discussed next month.
- Friends Update: Friends first meeting after their summer break is on Sept 15th. The Friends made \$905 on Back-to-School Raffle.

- OCLN Update: OCLN will vote in September on ILS system. The recommendation is for Evergreen.
- Programming Update: Toddler time and pre-school programs start this week. Tarot card reader is coming in October. For Abington Reads, we are looking at The Art Thief. The author, Michael Finkle would do a virtual visit as he lives in Utah. Deb is negotiating the price.
- Other: The Whitman director has resigned and taken a job on the Cape. Whitman Library is closed on Wednesday mornings which is impacting us.
- **Building Issues:**
- A/C Study: The A/C results are in. The cost is \$981,719 to replace the air conditioning. This project is going to be near the top of the Capital Plan to be voted on in the May 2026 town meeting.
- Outdoor Benches: Deb has received one quote of less than \$5,000 for all 5 benches.
- There was a yellow jacket infestation in the staff room. Griggs and Brown sent someone who used the wrong spray. A supervisor came out and sprayed the correct spray which took care of the problem. The window will be fixed in October.

Current Library Issues

- Summer Reading Program: We had a total of over 2000 hours read from 127 patrons including 40 adults, 58 kids, 13 pre-k and 16 teens. We had 101 patrons play mini golf and 180 attend Mr. Vinny's Bubble Show.
- IMLS/MBLC Update: Money started coming in in July. Both House and Senate budgets fund the IMLS. MBLC is being very conservative in spending the money.
- FY27 Early Budget Planning: The Town Manager expects to need an override for level services budget for FY27 due to the lack of federal money coming to Abington through the state. Department heads will meet again in September for further discussions and planning.
- Summer StoryWalk®: The StoryWalk® has been installed and receiving positive comments.

Old Business

- Website Transition Update: New Website is up and running. No major issues and we are very happy with the company.
- Databases: We have access to Peterson's Career and Test Prep databases. Rob was able to negotiate a lower price of \$1700.
- Envisionware Cloud Nine Service Upgrade: Training will be done next week. This is our computer reservation system.
- Borrowing Policies OCLN Standardization Update: No update at this time.
- The initial email update for OCLN went fine. Will work on multi-factor authentication later.

- **New Business:**

- FY27 Budget messaging: Selectman want to see restructuring, cuts, outsourcing etc. for all town departments by 2nd meeting in October. Deb will be preparing a level funded budget.
- FY25 Trust Fund summary: Expendable Balance in all Trust funds is \$100,277.95
- FY25 Lost Book Summary: We received \$1,215.47 in revenue. We refunded \$18.99 and expended \$1084.72. There is a balance of \$374.09.
- FY25 State Aid Summary: In FY25 we received \$49,587.10. We typically use state aid for technology or programing because town does not pay for these. We typically don't use state aid in the year we receive it.
- FY25 Gift Account Summary: We took in \$9,936.25 in gift revenue. The balance in the gift account is \$37,195.85 plus \$3,000 which was pledged by the Friends but hasn't been received yet.
- FY25 Garden fund: The balance is about \$300.
- Eagle Scout Project: Scout wants to do a Library of Things with Games.
- No word on the Chess project.
- Study Room Policy update: There was a discussion of changes to the study room policy. We are adding that only limited snacks will be allowed. Study room users must check in at the Circulation Desk. Early entry (prior to a pre-

booked reservation) is not allowed without relinquishment of the original reservation. Also adding that study rooms are assigned by staff. Deb will ask the staff to make additional recommendations. **Motion made by Mary to approve and a seconded by John. It was approved unanimously.**

Next Meetings:

October 6th @ 7 pm

November 3rd @ 7 pm

MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:53pm by Gerry, seconded by Laura, and accepted unanimously.