

**Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees**

Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2025

Called to Order 7:01 pm

Attendees:

Henry DiCarlo, Chair
Gail Bergin, Vice Chair
Barbara McLaughlin
Laura Brink
Sue Crowley
Jake O'Neill
Deborah Grimmett, Library Director

Absent:

Gerry Haas
John Leahy
Mary Gillis

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2025, were reviewed by the Board. **MOTION to approve October 6, 2025, minutes was made by Barbara, seconded by Laura, and accepted unanimously. Gail and Sue abstained.**

Chairman's Report

- Article on Facebook about Carnegie libraries. There are 43 libraries in Massachusetts that the Carnegie Foundation donated money for their original buildings, including libraries in Rockland and Brockton. The Foundation is giving a \$10,000 gift to the existing Carnegie Libraries in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Library Director's Report

- Monthly Financial Report: Financial Report was reviewed. Library is on track with spending

- Statistical Report: Report was not available because it was the first business day of the month.
- Friends Update: Friends doing a gift card raffle. Donations of gift cards are accepted at the front desk. This fundraiser will replace the fall book sale.
- OCLN Update: David Slater reported that contract with Evergreen was signed. The rollover will take place either right before or after April vacation. Three committees have been set up for the roll over to make transition more seamless. APL has representatives on all three committees.
- Programming Update: Rob had 22 people attend the program on Tarot Cards. Some patrons asked to run the program again. Patrons have asked about an historical program. On January 29th there will be a presentation on the Larchmont, a steam paddle wheel boat that sank off Block Island.

Building Issues

- A/C Study: Deb has been asking for an update from the Town Manager because any money needs to be included in the town meeting warrant.
- Main Space Light Switches: Deb reached out to Ockers about redoing the light switches. They have not returned multiple calls and emails.
- Outdoor Benches: Deb getting last two quotes for the application.

Current Library Issues

- IMLS/MBLC Update: IMLS still remains closed since federal government shutdown. Deb will attend the MLS annual meeting.
- StoryWalk®: Great feedback from Griffin's Dairy committee. The field maintenance of the dairy removed the signs and dropped them off at the library. Carrie, committee chair, volunteered to repaint the signs for the spring.
- FY27 Budget Messaging: The trustees reviewed the FY27 budget prepared by the library director. **MOTION to approve draft budget presented by library director with the understanding that it may change after discussion with Finance Committee was made by Susan, seconded by Gail, and accepted by the majority. Jake voted against the budget on the grounds that cutting the library budget is shortsighted for the needs of the patrons entering a tough budgetary period.**

- State aid: Abington public library should receive first state aid payment of approximately \$25,000

Old Business

- Borrowing Policies OCLN Standardization Update: OCLN voted to standardize circulation. When the transition is uploaded to Evergreen the APL will adopt the new standards. The current library policy on loans still works and will be updated when the transition to Evergreen is complete.
- OCLN MFA Update: Email system is up and running.
- Abington Reads 2026: The initial author requested \$5,000 for a virtual visit so the director will be looking at additional authors.
- Computers: New computers have arrived and are up and running. The other computers will be set up soon.

New Business

- FY 27 Action Plan Update for the Strategic Plan: The trustees reviewed the Action Plan update so it can be submitted to the state. **MOTION to approve Action Plan Update was made by Jake, seconded by Susan, and accepted unanimously.**
- State Budget Earmark: Senator Keenan put earmarks in the budget to provide funds for all the libraries in his district. Abington Public Library will be receiving \$8,000. The trustees discussed what the money could be used for at the library. No decision was made during the meeting.
- High School Student Card Registration Update: The library did 22 new registrations and updated several cards that had lapsed. Rob did a presentation on databases available to high school students.
- Book Bites: Jonathan did a 2-minute book review on a graphic novel which will be sent over to Abington CAM.

Next Meetings: **January 12 @ 7 pm**
February 2 @ 7 pm

MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:30 pm by Laura, seconded by Gail, and accepted unanimously.