



Board of Trustees
Georgetown Peabody Library
2 Maple Street
Georgetown, MA 01833

MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN PEABODY LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING
Monday, March 24, 2025

Present: Sue Clay, Aimee Hamelin, Kevin Moran, Sue Clohecy, Erin Wormell, Megan Lichty, and Library Director Sarah Cognata

Absent:

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Old Business:

Minutes:

- Sue Clohecy makes motion to accept February 24, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Megan Lichty seconds. Unanimously approved.

FY26 Budget:

- After the last budget hearing, it's been established that if the override fails the Library will have to close a day. The thought is to close the Library on Fridays since Town Hall and the Council on Aging are closed on Fridays as well. Next year, the Council on Aging and the Library will be considered for full closure if the vote does not pass.

Charitable Entity Discussion:

- No update on the estate of Sara H. Bean.

Director's Report:

Program Updates:

- **Minute Madness:** 84 patrons have read more than 84,000 minutes in March up through last week, putting us in the "Fierce Four" for the week of March 21-28th up against Holbrook.
- **Children's Clothing Swap:** A kids clothing swap will be on April 5th from 10-12:45, run by Mary and Cathy. The drop off time will be on April 4th from 1-5 PM. People can donate up to 20 items, including gently used shoes. Donations leftover will be brought to local organizations.
- **Escape Room Program:** On 3/20, Olivia hosted 6 teams of 3-6 people for an escape room competition for the fastest time to solve. Top two teams won cash as a prize. She hopes to host a similar program soon for tweens or teens.

Maintenance:

- **Fire Alarm Panel:** L. W. Bills quoted \$4,990 for a new fire alarm panel. Sarah signed the quote on 2/28 and they're scheduled to replace it on 4/9. Sue Clohecy makes a motion to use the State Aid Fund to pay for the fire alarm system. Megan seconds. Unanimously approved.
- **Elevator:** The state certification for the elevator has been issued and now expires on 1/31/26.
- **Water damage:** The HVAC pipe near the fireplace ceiling had a leak this week. Damage is less than last time. An insurance claim will be put in soon and should be handled as usual.

Technology:

- **MVLC Mobile App:** The customizations are all happening, but the self-checkout option has been delayed. The extra cost per year is still \$498.

State Aid:

- The second state aid payment of \$11,315.28 was received. The total for the year is \$22,513.62.

FY25 Budget:

- It's nearly the last quarter of the budget. Once approved by the town's Finance Committee, salaries surplus will be transferred into expenses line items to help get through the last quarter spending.

IMLS Update:

- An executive order was signed by President Trump on 3/14/25 that targets federal funding to the IMLS, or Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, the largest source of federal funding for libraries. The MBLC, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, is given \$3.6 billion in grants from the IMLS to fund MBLC staff, research databases for the state, Commonwealth Catalog (ComCat), Summer Reading programs, Statewide ebook program (Library Ebooks and Audiobooks - LEA), Funding for the ebook platform and some ebook content, statewide trainings for librarians to increase access to those with vision loss, data collection and reporting, and federal funding also supports the E-Rate program.
- This order calls into question what are statutory and discretionary programs and the MBLC is working with the Mass Attorney General's office to push back, and other states are doing the same.
- MVLC Directors are voting at the 3/25 Membership Meeting to put a banner on the Libby webpage and app to remind patrons that the service is partially funded through IMLS.

Sue Clohecy makes a motion to accept the Director's Report. Megan Lichty seconds the motion. Unanimously approved.

New Business:**Library Director Evaluation:**

- Aimee will send out evaluations to all Trustees.
- Sarah will complete a self-evaluation and send it to the Trustees before the April meeting.

Library Director's Contract:

- First contract with Sarah was in 2019 and is up for review and renewal every three years.

Monthly Reports:**Friends Report:**

- The Spring Book Sale raised \$3,800. Michael Hinchliffe came to talk about the override movement with the Friends to inform them of more details. The Annual Appeal letter went out.

Bills/Payroll Report:

- All is well for FY2025 with respect to acquisitions and payroll.

Adjournment: Sue Clohecy makes a motion to adjourn. Megan Lichty seconds the motion. Unanimously approved. Adjournment at 7:31 PM.

Prepared by Aimee Hamelin on March 24, 2025

Next Meeting: April 28th, 2025 at 7:00 PM.