



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

MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN PEABODY LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING
Monday, May 19, 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:

- Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept April 28, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Erin Wormell seconds. Unanimously approved.

FY26 Budget:

- The override passed so the library's FY26 budget will be \$592,200 and able to maintain services overall.
- FY25 budget was \$566,239 and \$590,284 was requested during the FY25 override vote.

Charitable Entity Discussion:

- On May 8th, an administrative hearing was held where a judge approved the formal probate of the will with a personal representative. This executor/administrator has a bond that guarantees that they'll act ethically and legally, protecting the estate and its beneficiaries from financial losses. The representative will contact the library when the estate is settled.

Library Director's Contract:

- Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept Sarah's contract. Erin seconds. Roll call vote: Megan Lichty, aye; Kevin Moran, aye; Sue Clay, aye, Aimee Hamelin, aye; Erin Wormwell, aye. Unanimously approved.

Director's Report:

Library/Staff News:

- **Part-Time Circulation Library Technician:** Mary has given her notice with her last day to be Tuesday, June 17th. She's been with us since 2019 and she will be missed. Advertising for this job will start in early June.

Emergency Procedures Manual:

- Sarah created an Emergency Procedures Manual in 2017/2018 to help staff in the event of a power outage, fire, medical emergencies, etc.
- Sarah updated this and submitted it to the new administration in the Police and Fire Chief positions. On 5/16, Police Chief Sedgwick reviewed it and approved.

Maintenance:

- **Fire Alarm Panel:** Invoice submitted on state aid warrant cover sheet on 5/12.
- **HVAC Spring Preventative Maintenance:** Conducted on 5/14 and 5/15 with no issues found by Premier Mechanical.
- **Water damage:** No update.
- **Janitorial Services:** The town has signed an agreement with Finazi Facility Management. They outbid the current company and will also be providing free snow removal services for the Library and Town Hall. They will start on July 1st and cleaning days will continue to be two days a week. Monthly cost is \$997 compared to the current \$1,600 per month.

Summer Reading Program:

- Summer reading programs for each age will begin on Monday, June 16th and run until Friday August 15th. Big thanks to the Friends of the Library for fully funding all requests for programming.
- Hours and activities will be logged in the Beanstack software.
- There will be Wednesday night concerts, take and make activity kits, and in-person programming throughout the summertime.
- The final celebration will be on Monday August 11th from 4-6 PM with the Kona ice truck, henna, lawn games, water fun and music, etc.

FY25 Budget/Stats:

- Finance Committee meeting soon to complete budget transfers.
- Staff ordering for books and materials.
- Circulation numbers are great. Will hit 32,000 visitors for this year.

IMLS Updates:

- **5/2 update:** The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a temporary restraining order to block the dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services that resulted from President Trump's Executive Order 14238. MBLC is working to determine how this will impact their ability to access IMLS funds.
- Both the instability at IMLS serve as an indicator that at this point, federal funding remains uncertain. This places the MBLC in the position of planning for FY2026 without federal funding. The broad effect of President Trump's Executive Orders, impacting more than libraries, and creating funding challenges across the state, means that the state budget cannot make up the total loss of the \$3.6 million in IMLS funding the MBLC receives.
- To provide the services required in Mass General Law Chapter 78, MBLC needs every single person they currently have on staff. If they cut staff, they will have to cut services, and that would put them out of compliance with state law.
- **5/9 update:** President Trump fired Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress who has been a champion of intellectual freedom. A federal judge has granted a preliminary injunction halting the further dismantling of the IMLS that began on March 14th when President Trump signed Executive Order 14238 eliminating IMLS to "the maximum extent consistent with applicable law." The preliminary injunction comes as part of the lawsuit filed by attorneys general in 21 states, including Massachusetts. This is separate from the lawsuit filed by the American Library Association and the American Federation of State, Counting and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) which was granted a temporary restraining order to block the dismantling of IMLS.
- In the long game they may move the MBLC closer to a return to reliable federal funding for libraries. But right now, the MBLC is facing difficult decisions that are based on what we do know: federal uncertainty persists. The MBLC cannot move ahead with services for FY226 based on what the MBLC hopes will happen with federal funding.
- **5/16 update:** Rhode Island District Court Judge John J. McConnell Jr. issued an injunction to stop the dismantling of the IMLS. The order calls for IMLS employees to be recalled to work for processing and disbursements of grants to be resumed

- Questions remain about federal compliance with this ruling and the outlook for federal funding for FY2026. The MBLC is planning for FY26 with no federal funding. The MBLC cannot make up the federal funds via their state budget lines which are currently level funded in the FY26 budgets being debated at the State House.

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

New Business:

Election of Officers:

- Sue Clay makes a motion that Megan Lichty becomes the Chair. Erin seconds. Roll call vote: Kevin Moran, aye; Sue Clay, aye; Aimee Hamelin, aye; Erin Wormwell, aye. Unanimously approved.
- Sue Clay makes a motion that Sue Clohecy becomes the Vice Chair. Erin seconds. Roll call vote: Megan Lichty, aye; Kevin Moran, aye; Sue Clay, aye; Aimee Hamelin, aye; Erin Wormwell, aye. Unanimously approved.
- Sue Clay makes a motion to make Erin Wormwell the Secretary. Erin seconds. Roll call vote: Megan Lichty, aye; Kevin Moran, aye; Sue Clay, aye; Aimee Hamelin, aye. Unanimously approved.
- Sue Clay makes a motion that Aimee Hamelin will be the Historian. Erin seconds. Roll call vote: Megan Lichty, aye; Kevin Moran, aye; Sue Clay, aye; Erin Wormwell, aye. Unanimously approved.
- Sue Clay makes a motion that Sue Clay will be Treasurer. Erin seconds. Roll call vote: Megan Lichty, aye; Kevin Moran, aye; Aimee Hamelin, aye; Erin Wormwell, aye. Unanimously approved.

Monthly Reports:

Friends Report:

- The Books in Bloom event went well. Friends meeting in June will work on revising the bylaws to include more people to vote.

Bills/Payroll Report:

- All as usual.

Adjournment: Megan Lichty makes a motion to adjourn. Kevin Moran seconds the motion. Unanimously approved. Adjournment at 7:46 PM.

Prepared by Aimee Hamelin on May 19, 2025
Next Meeting: June 23rd, 2025 at 7:00 PM.