



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

MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN PEABODY LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING

Monday, December 22, 2025

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

Absent: Sue Clohecy

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

Old Business:

Minutes:

- Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept October 27, 2025 minutes. Sue Clay seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept the November 24, 2025 meeting minutes. Sue Clay seconds. Unanimously approved.

Review of Library Director Evaluation Form:

- Discussion occurred last meeting. Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept revised form. Sue Clay seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Trustees requested Sarah send the revised Library Director Evaluation Form to the Town Administrator for their records.

Staff/Trustees Holiday Party Discussion:

- To be held Friday, January 9th. It will be hosted by Sue Clay.

2026 Holiday Closings:

- Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept the Library's 2026 Holiday Closing calendar. Sue Clay seconds. Unanimously approved.

Director's Report:

Library/Staff News:

- **Potential Children's Program Room:** Cathy and Sarah met with Angela Plante of Jones Architecture on 11/26 to review their drawings and provide feedback.
 - They'll update the plans based on the notes and feedback we provided which included:
 - Design Options:
 - General Note: Maintain sightlines from children's desk to program room.
 - Option 1 (preferred option)

- Flexible furniture solutions instead of millwork pieces (flip-top tables, moveable storage and stacking chairs)
 - Option 2:
 - A moveable partition isn't needed but the design team will price this option for reference. Design of each panel to have durable material at the bottom and glass above to avoid having any accidents with full glass panels.
- Finishes:
 - All finishes to be resilient, cleanable and durable.
 - Painting refresh might be included with carpet replacement. Paint colors to match existing.
 - Program Room:
 - Resilient flooring
 - Chalkboard wall (floor to ceiling)
 - Magnetic boards are preferred instead of tack boards (no pins)
 - Carpet tile to replace existing broadloom carpet. Carpet design to match as close as possible to the existing design and color.
 - No additional area rugs are needed
- Next steps for design team:
 - High level budget pricing for project scope
 - Review bookcase quantities to ensure proposed design is maintaining existing shelving space
 - Review carpet tile options (match existing)

Maintenance:

- **Furnace Heat Exchanger:** Replaced on 12/16. \$6,050.00 to be taken out of the Peabody Fund.

MVLC News:

- **Email System:** MVLC Directors voted to approve migrating our email system from Microsoft to Google Workspace. Target completion date of August 2026, but not later than April 2027 to ensure completion of project before a potential ILS (integrated library system) migration.
- **ILS Review Process:** All initial product demos with the three vendors have been completed, and recordings are available for viewing. MVLC is scheduling follow-up demos for each vendor in January, along with virtual site visitors with existing customers conducted by the ILS steering committee.

Technology:

- **Public Wi-Fi:** Our public network continues to drop intermittently, whether we have many people in the building or not. Comcast will send a technician out to check out our public modem. TBD on date. If things do not get any better after this, Sarah may need to look into increasing the library's bandwidth speeds. Currently, we have 35/5M with our courtesy account. State of Mass ITT72 Contract would be 150/25M.

FY27 Budget:

- A proposed FY27 draft budget is in your packet. No official communication yet from the Finance Committee. Town Administrator states the ClearGov portal will be open soon and they want budgets in there by mid-January 2026.

IMLS Update:

- The library community across Massachusetts is applauding a major federal court ruling that permanently blocks Executive Order 14238, which sought to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the nation's only federal agency dedicated to supporting libraries and museums.
- On November 21, U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. McConnell ruled in favor of 21 state attorneys general, including Massachusetts, determining that the order exceeded presidential authority and violated laws governing agencies established by Congress. The ruling ensures

that IMLS can continue delivering critical support and funding for libraries nationwide and prohibits any further attempts to dismantle the agency.

- The Rhode Island v. Trump First Circuit argument scheduled for December 4 in Boston will not be going forward. In light of the district court's granting of summary judgment and a permanent injunction to the states, the federal government filed an assented-to motion to dismiss the appeal as moot, which the court granted.
- While the ruling protects IMLS from elimination, FY2026 funding levels are still being finalized. The agency is currently funded at FY2025 levels under a Continuing Resolution through January, and both the House and Senate have restored IMLS funding in their budget revisions. The proposed \$291.8 million allocation includes a modest cut overall but a slight increase to the Grants to States program, which supports services here in Massachusetts.
- With these two major developments, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) will begin to rebuild its federal program. Prior to the Executive Order, through IMLS' Grants to States Program, the MBLC was allocated \$3.6 million to support statewide library services and grants to local libraries. Federal funding uncertainty made it necessary to cut many of the services the MBLC provided with IMLS funds.

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

New Business

FY27 Proposed Budget:

- Discussed proposed FY27 budget. Proposing 3 budgets: 2%, 2.5% and 3% COLA increases as the Town Administrator indicated using 2.5% for budget planning, but that could go up or down. Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept the FY27 budget including 3 possible COLA scenarios. Sue Clay seconds it. Unanimously approved.

Sock Drive bin request from Georgetown Girl Scout Troop 82937

- Megan Lichty makes a motion to accept the request of a sock drive bin. Sue Clay seconds it. Unanimously approved.

Monthly Reports

Friends Report:

- Friends had their meeting on Wednesday, December 3.
- Friends viewed the scope of work for the redesign in the Children's Room and discussed potential sources of funds.
- Sarah requested an increase in the programming budget from the Friends separate from the summer reading program requests. They approved a \$4,500 budget with the option to increase to \$6,000 if needed.
- Friends approved their annual appeal letter, which will be sent out at the end of January through the town's electric bill. They are changing payment options from PayPal to Zeffy.
- Book sale will be Wednesday, March 18 to Saturday, March 21. Donations accepted starting Thursday, March 12 to Tuesday, March 17.
- Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7.

Bills/Payroll Report:

- Bills and payroll as expected.

Adjournment: Megan Lichty makes a motion to adjourn. Sue Clay seconds the motion. Unanimously approved. Adjournment at 7:35 PM.

Prepared by Erin Wormell on December 22, 2025

Next Meeting: January 26 at 7:00 PM