



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

MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN PEABODY LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING

Held via Zoom

Monday, February 23, 2026

Present: Kevin Moran, Sue Clohecy, Aimee Hamelin, Erin Wormell, Library Director Sarah Cognata

Absent: Megan Lichty, Sue Clay

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

Old Business:

Minutes:

- Kevin Moran makes a motion to accept January 26, 2026 minutes. Aimee Hamelin seconds. Unanimously approved.

FY27 Budget:

- Sarah presented the FY27 budget to the Finance Committee on 2/4.
- Some members from the Finance Committee toured the library on 2/21 and asked a few questions regarding maintenance and our membership with MVLC.

Sawyer Fund – Discussion:

- Sarah received an opinion from Thomas W. McEnaney, Esq. at KP Law regarding the restricted gift fund.
- Cathy and Sharon will work on purchasing books, playaways, and other items for 4th to 5th grade children separate from our book materials line item in the operating budget.
- Cathy and Sharon have decided on a location in the Children's Room to hold these particular items and Sarah will purchase a plaque to showcase the fund.

Update on Charitable Entity (Estate of Sara H. Bean):

- We are waiting for the Select Board to vote to establish a gift account for these funds, but the check from the estate was received on 2/4 and brought over to the town for deposit.
- Sarah worked with Kathy Urner-Jones from the Friends to draft thank you letters to the attorney and family member.

Director's Report:

Library/Staff News:

- **Potential Children's Program Room:** Cathy and Sarah met with Jones Architecture on 1/23. Favoring option 1B from the presentation that was shared. We received the revised document on 1/30 that included the updated cost estimate for the carpeting as well as (2) schedule options with placeholder dates.
 - One more general note on construction costs - Their order of magnitude cost estimate is based on doing the project all at once. Splitting the project into two parts will inherently cost more because we will be paying the contractor to mobilize twice and be on the site for a longer period of time. There could be some increase in material costs as well over the course of that year.
 - The Friends met on 2/4 and would like to move forward with this project. Everyone realizes that this will be a multi-year process. They are requesting the following from the Trustees:
 - Approve the project to move forward to allow the Friends to start a silent phase campaign before going public.
 - Approve to allow naming opportunities for the Program Room.
 - How much the Trustees wish the Friends to raise; if the Trustees can identify any money to contribute to the silent phase and/or can the Trustees fill in if the Friends fall short of the fundraising goal.

Maintenance:

- **State Elevator Inspection:** The state will notify us in mid-March of a re-inspection date for April.

MVLC News:

- **Email System:** Microsoft to Google migration may be happening mid to late June.

Technology:

- **Website:** The Department of Justice has established a deadline for April 2026 for those who serve a population of 50,000+ and a deadline for April 2027 for those who serve a population under 50,000 for public entities to meet updated ADA Title II web accessibility standards. Our website developer, Stirling Technologies, has reached out to their clients and will conduct an Accessibility Audit. This audit focuses on the underlying code and structure of our site. They identify any compliance issues at a technical level, provide a detailed report of findings, and include up to 3 hours of critical fixes as part of the audit. From there, we can always add additional time for deeper content review and ongoing support. Cost is \$1,280 for the audit which will be taken out of State Aid funds.

Sue Clohecy makes a motion to accept the Director's Report. Kevin Moran seconds. Unanimously accepted.

New Business

Children's Program Room Renovation - Discussion and potential votes

- We received the revised document on 1/30 that included the updated cost estimate for the carpeting (\$28K) along with schedule options with placeholder dates. The total estimated cost of the project went from \$300K to \$124K.

- Sarah met with the Friends on 2/4 and they would like to move forward on the project. Discussion ensued on how to fund the effort. The Friends plan to start a silent fundraising campaign and are looking for what the Trustees could allocate towards the project. Using a portion of the Sara H. Bean estate fund is an option. Discussion about giving money to kickstart the silent phase part of the campaign.
- The Friends would like to discuss possibilities of naming rights. Sarah will get clarification about possibilities for naming the room, doing a donor plaque, etc. from Orlando.
- Sue Clohecy makes a motion to move forward with the Children's Program Room renovation plan and to contribute \$64K of the Sara H. Bean estate to the silent phase part of the campaign. Kevin Moran seconds. Unanimously approved.

Monthly Reports

Friends Report:

- The Friends discussed the Children's Program Room renovation. They renewed some museum passes. Their Annual Appeal letter went out. They are co-sponsoring an event tomorrow with the Georgetown Theatre Workshop. Their next meeting is Wednesday, March 4.

Bills/Payroll Report:

- Bills and payroll as expected.

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

Prepared by Erin Wormell on February 23, 2026

Next Meeting: March 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM