



DIRECTOR
KIMBERLY A. GRAD

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Abbot Public Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2025

Attendees:

Trustees: Gary Amberik, Kathy Barker, Jennifer Jewell, Deb Payson, John Williams (Partial)

Absent: David Ross

Director: Kimberly Grad

Meeting available via zoom

Published agenda:

- L. Approval of May 8, 2025 Minutes/VOTE
- II. Director's report – Policy Update / Programs
- III. Report from the Chair
- IV. FRIENDS UPDATE

Next Board Meeting July 7, 2025.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting location was held by zoom and called to order at 6:05 pm. Motion to approve the Minutes for the meeting on 5/8/2025. The Motion was seconded and approved by Roll call vote:

Gary Amberik	Yes
Jen Jewell	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
Deb Payson	Yes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Scheduling

Closed for holidays on June 19, July 4 and July 5

Save the date!

Sunday, July 6, 2025, 4-6 pm - Details are coming together for the Abbot Public Library Foundation Art Auction featuring author Mary Alice Munroe. The event is listed on the library website as well as the Marblehead Festival of Arts site as the final event of the weekend. APLF is also sending out an invitation to donors. Please plan to attend if you are available.

Staff

- Interviews are planned for June 4 and 9 for Technical Services Supervisor and Adult Services Librarian positions
- Staff Development Day - proposed by Jane Wolff, Assistant Director
- Attended MLA conference:
 - a. Clarification on funding status (loss of databases, retention of Libby and Comcast ILL services)
 - b. Civic engagement
 - c. Road to Sustainability
 - d. Membership
 - e. The 2026 conference will be held in Danvers
- Kim will be attending the ALA conference June 26-July 1 in Philadelphia as part of my service with the 2026 Caldecott Award Selection Committee.

Funding

Shattuck Memorial Fund application is due June 27, 2025 (proposed: sound proofing curtains for makerspace)

Invoices and Quotes to Approve

Dan the Electrician - \$1,612.00 (new track lighting - using old lighting fixtures)

Building updates: Spring Projects

- Soundproofing project in the Thompson Makerspace
- Front-lawn light fixtures
- Fence repair
- Decorating ideas for the Fireplace Room (with Kathy Barker)
- Keying project for building
- Children's Room: (awning over window seat, rope table still needs work, windows need washing, new public monitor needed, electrical box adjustment in wall)
- Service agreements

Notes from May 15 NOBLE Meeting

Revisions to the NOBLE borrowing policy will prompt an update to our local borrowing policy. This will be presented at a future board meeting.

In June, NOBLE is implementing a new open-source discovery system to the Evergreen catalog that is designed to provide a unified and improved search experience for library patrons, integrating the library's catalog with e-content and other digital resources.

Program Highlights

Adult Programs

A range of adult programs were offered in May, catering to various interests from literature and history to crafts and technology.

The library hosted both in-person and Zoom Adult Fiction Book Clubs. The May selection for discussion was "Gone So Long" by Andre Dubus III.

Lectures and Discussions included:

- Lectures with Road Scholar: Founding Fathers - The Rivalry That Shaped America: A livestream of historian Louis P. Masur discussing the rivalry between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.
- What the Presidents Read: An "engaging discussion" on the early lives of various U.S. Presidents through the lens of their favorite childhood books.
- Jeremiah Lee and the Role in Slavery in Marblehead's Colonial Economy with Lauren McCormack
- Swimming North: How Fish Adapt to Climate Change: A presentation by doctoral candidate Estefany Argueta on black sea bass and their adaptation to warming waters in the Gulf of Maine - with Salem Sound Coastwatch

Teen Programs

Attendance in the Teen room skewed much younger this month, with most visitors coming from MVMS directly after school. Three popular programs included a workshop on sculpting sloths using needle felting techniques with The Pop-Up Art School, a Super Smash Bros tournament, and a workshop with North Shore Glass School on how to make suncatchers.

The Question of the Month asked teens what they were good at, with responses ranging from speaking other languages, being good athletes, and sleeping (multiple mentions of eating too!) 150 teens participated in 5 different passive programs.

Teen book displays highlighted first books in a series, things with colorful covers, and titles that only consist of a single word (Mexikid, Skyward, Enchantee as examples)

Children's Programs

Foot traffic was high this month and our standard children's programs were well attended. The Minecraft program received a 5-star review.

Children's libraries are increasingly seen as dynamic community play spaces, naturally paired with early literacy collections due to the growing emphasis on entertainment, social-emotional learning, and play in childhood development. We are frequently asked if we provide toys. The success of our new activity wall installation clearly addresses this need, as this story wonderfully shows:

A man and his son came in and the child played for an hour with the new sensory wall. Afterwards, he said "that new wall is great. My son is now exhausted from playing with it, and I am NOT exhausted from picking up after him".

General Statistics	09/24	10/24	11/24	12/24	01/25	02/25	03/25	4/25	5/25
Number of patron cards	10,117	10,128	10,094	9,939	9,671	9,451	9,250	9,126	9,011
Books added to collection	617	719	248	461	316	398	274	716	605
Circulation of in-library materials	11,737	11,991	12,058	10,461	11,065	10,057	11,828	11,359	11,349
Circulation of digital materials	4,484	4,973	4,924	5,203	5,303	5,226	5,155	6,591	6,508
# of programs	36	57	49	46	47	55	54	51	60
Program attendance	699	1,502	934	791	804	1,011	906	987	1,004
Door count	2,740 (lower only)	4,025 (lower only)	6,305 (lower only)	5,618 total 3,031 lower 2,587 main	6,323 total 3,008 lower 3,315 main	5,226 total 3,008 lower 2,687 main	7,289 total 3,443 lower 3,846 main	6,826 Total 3,446 lower 3,380 main	6,241 Total 3,163 lower 3,078 main

Discussion of Director's Report

Overview of staffing and upcoming interviews for open positions were outlined. The Board approved the idea for Staff development day. Additional ideas were provided for the proposed team building event and the Director will evaluate with staff. Makerspace updates were discussed with other sources to resource soundproofing. To accommodate the Shattuck June 27th due date, a letter will be circulated for review. An update was provided for ideas for plants for Scully room. An updated proposal will be provided.

The following invoices were reviewed and discussed with Motion to approve as detailed below:

1. Dan the Electrician - \$1,612.00 (new track lighting - using old lighting fixtures)
2. Membership for \$200 for the MLA
3. Staff development day up to \$1,500 for team building, event, and lunch

The Motion was seconded and approved by Roll call vote:

Gary Amberik	Yes
Jen Jewell	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
Deb Payson	Yes

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Board is invited to meet with the Town Charter Committee and the preferred date is July 22nd at 6:30 PM. Drafts will be posted on the Town website.

The Chair and board thanked to outgoing Board members Jen Jewell and Deb Payson for their service.

FRIENDS REPORT:

Kathleen provided updates on officer changes as previously reported and success of the latest event on May 31st 2PM for Janet Parnes event of historical portrayal of Deborah Sampson Revolutionary war hero.

APLF

Their next meeting is on June 18th. There will be an art auction now hung in Carten Gallery and event in garden space on July 6th. Invitations are forthcoming. This event will be the finale of the Marblehead Festival of Arts.

There was a Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. All approved by Roll Call vote:

Gary Amberik	Yes
Jen Jewell	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes

Deb Payson

Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. The Board went into Executive Session for Purpose #2: To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, not to return to Open Session

End of Meeting Minutes