

DIRECTOR
KIMBERLY A. GRAD

ABBOT

PUBLIC LIBRARY

TRUSTEES
GARY J. AMBERIK, CHAIR
JOHN WILLIAMS, VICE
CHAIR
KATHY BARKER,
SECRETARY
MARJORIE NORMAN
DAVID ROSS
KATHLEEN WASLOV

Abbot Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2026

Attendees:

Trustees: Gary Amberik, David Ross, Kathleen Waslov,

Director: Kimberly Grad

Attending by Zoom: Kathy Barker and John Williams

Absent: Marjorie Norman

Meeting was available via zoom

Published agenda:

- L. Approval of December 1, 2025 Minutes/VOTE
- II. Director’s report – Staff updates / Project Update / Invoice Approval
- III. Report from the Chair
- IV. FRIENDS UPDATE

Next Board Meeting February 2, 2025.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting location at the Library and held by zoom was called to order at 6:08 pm. Motion to approve the Minutes for the meeting on 12/1/2025. The Motion was seconded and approved by vote:

Gary Amberik	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
David Ross	Yes
Kathleen Waslov	Yes
John Williams	Yes

As two members are attending by Zoom, roll call voting is required.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Schedule of Service

- 2026 Holiday schedule is included for review and approval.

Staff Updates

- December 18, 2025 - De-escalation Training with Michele Eberle, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)
- January 8, 2026 - Active Shooter Training with Marblehead Chief of Police Dennis King

- Staff resignation - Temp Library Assistant

FY27 Budget

- The State of the Town Address by Town Administrator Thatcher Kezer will take place on Wednesday, January 28 at 7 pm.
- I am expecting meetings to be scheduled with the Finance Committee Library Liaison group and the Finance Department.

Building Updates

- Annese front lawn light repairs - scheduled for today
- Sidewalk cut outs in progress - note damage to new outdoor bookdrop bin
- Curtains for makerspace - scheduled for January 8
- HVAC - awaiting service estimate from General Air, Dorchester, MA.
- Sprinkler repair - Rustic Fire Prevention
- Teen Study Room debuts on Assabet Reservation software this month

Art in the building

- Photographs for Scully Salon
- Mary Spitzer inquiry

Additional items

- Meeting Room policy - edits - no significant changes
- Memory Kits are ready for circulation via our Library of Things

Requesting the following motions for approval

- Approval of the 2026 Holiday schedule.
- \$2,795.82 for repair - sprinkler room - Rustic Fire Protection

Brief Department Notes:

- The Scully Salon has a new puzzle-in-progress table. More tabletop games are coming soon.
- New signage is in place on the A-Frame shelving units.
- Interest in the Cookbook club remains high. The next session will take place in March.
- Teen Center attendance is at an all-time high, averaging 8–12 visitors daily.
- To address behavioral challenges from middle schoolers, the library is transitioning from a solo-staffed model in the Teen Room to a shared rotation and implementing new, library-wide behavioral standards starting in 2026.

Discussion of Director's Report

The revised meeting room policy changes were discussed and noted as approved with changes on date. The generous offer of a yearlong loan of a sculpture was discussed, however, since there not a space to house the pieces offered, the artist will be advised of a decline but thanked for the offer. The director will check on the plant watering schedule. The director provided more details on the Feb 7th Winterfest on crafts and various programming efforts. A run of show will be shared with the Friends and Board members, who are encouraged to attend. The director will be augmenting the annual statistics report as part of the annual report to the town. The director shared recent school visits on Caldecott discussions. The board expressed success to the upcoming meetings the Director is attending with the winner announced on Jan 26th.

There was a Motion for approval of the invoice of \$\$2,795.82 for repairs in the sprinkler room - Rustic Fire Protection paid from the Operations account (Repair and Maintenance Building and Grounds). There was a Motion for approval of the 2026 Holiday Schedule. The Motions were for seconded and voted as approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Gary Amberik	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
David Ross	Yes
Kathleen Waslov	Yes
John Williams	Yes

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

See point above on upcoming Finance committee meetings and building repairs.

FRIENDS REPORT

Upcoming events in the spring:

- March 18 Book Donation Day
- March 20 Book Sale Setup Day
- March 21 Book Sale

APLF

The new director is Kate Tetirick. There is work ongoing for an appeal and upcoming Winterfest event.

There was a Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. All approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Gary Amberik	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
David Ross	Yes
Kathleen Waslov	Yes
John Williams	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

End of Meeting Minutes