

**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 – May 11, 2026

**Attendees:**

**Trustees:** Gary Amberik, Kathy Barker, Marjorie Norman, , Kathleen Waslov, John Williams

**Director:** Kimberly Grad

Attending by Zoom:

**Absent:** David Ross

Meeting was available via zoom

**Published agenda:**

- L. Approval of April 6, 2026 Minutes/VOTE
- II. Director’s report – Budget updates / Project Updates / Invoice Approval
- III. Report from the Chair
- IV. Abbot Public Library Foundation
- V. Friends Update

Next Board Meeting June 1, 2025. Town election is Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting location at the Library and held by zoom was called to order at 6:30 pm. Motion to approve the Minutes for the meeting on 4/6, and the interim meetings of 16<sup>th</sup> , 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The Motion was seconded and approved.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Gary Amberik	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
Marjorie Norman	Yes
Kathleen Waslov	Yes
John Williams	Yes

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**Service Hours**

Closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day

**Staff Updates**

- Technical Resource Specialist Dan Saulnier and Technical Services Assistant Julia Ricks will be attending the Massachusetts Library Association Conference May 18-19 in Danvers, MA.
- Teen Librarian Bianca Hezekiah has returned from an extended leave of absence.

## **April Statistics in Brief**

- Door counts: 6,489 (3,104 main and 3,385 lower)
- 17,428 items were checked out (10,833 print and 6,595 digital)
- 9,353 card holders (**highest number of the last 12 months**)
- 56 programs were offered with an attendance of 822
- 234 meeting room sessions were booked with an expected attendance of 573

## **FY27 Budget**

We are reviewing our contingency operating plans for no override and Tier 1 scenarios. Proposed service hours for these plans will be presented at the June 1 Board of Trustees meeting.

## **Private Funds**

The April 2026 proposal to the Shattuck Memorial Fund was accepted. We have received \$5,911.50 for the purchase of two gallery benches and one bike rack. Board approval is requested to move forward with the purchase.

## **Building Updates**

- Exterior OS&Y valve will be replaced May 14
- Elevator will be inspected May 15.
- The outdoor sprinkler system was repaired and Driftwood Garden Club has started the Spring cleanup.
- Outstanding repairs:
  - Additional signage for 316 office, children's room
  - Fix thresholds in both lower level storage rooms
  - Replace carpeting and nonfiction shelving in children's room
  - Address endcap range finding signage and displays in adult fiction and nonfiction stacks
  - Address programming issues with Showrunner, including front lawn light controls.
  - Grandfather clock - inner assembly of parts
  - Bonnet Repair for the Friendship ship model.

## **Save the Date for these special events in June**

**Wednesday, June 3, 7-8:30 pm** - Secrets Hidden. Secrets Revealed: A Conversation with Phyllis Karas. Book Launch party for *Curse of the Blumenthals*.

**Thursday, June 25, 12-4 pm** - Summer Reading Kick off complete with Friends pop-up book sale, puppies from Cape Ann Animal Shelter, snacks for sale from Shubies, ice cream for sale from Terry's ice cream truck, partnership tables with Council on Aging and Sustainable Marblehead (in progress)

**Monday, June 29, 7-8:30 pm** - Visit with author Meg Waite Clayton featuring her new book *Typewriter Beach*. The event is sponsored by the Abbot Public Library Foundation. Copper Dog Books will be on hand to sell books and monitor the book signing.

## **May 2026 Program Highlights:**

**Adult:**

- The Marblehead 250 programs continue on May 6 with Revolutionary Dwellings hosted by Anderson and on May 27 with the story of Captain James Mugford told by Donald Doliber.
- Coffee at the Library sessions continue on Fridays to give patrons the opportunity to chat with members of the Board of Trustees. The Marblehead Current will also host “Coffee with the Current” on May 15 to discuss local news coverage.
- Two Road Scholar programs cover Gay Rights activist Frank Kameny on May 18 and the documentary “Aging in America” on May 21.
- Salem Sound Coastwatch’s Alex Borreil presents “Drifters” on May 20, detailing a local student program tracking ocean currents in Salem Sound.

**Teen:**

- The Thompson Makerspace will host workshops led by Technical Resource Specialist Dan Saulnier:
  - 3D Printing on May 5 (Designing with Tinkercad)
  - Building moving structures with ZOOBs on May 12
  - Custom button making on May 26
- We are hosting a reception on May 16 to showcase Marblehead High School’s National Art Honor Society Album Cover Art and photography projects.

**Children:**

- Early Childhood: Recurring sessions of Music and Movement, Story Time A-Go-Go, Book Worms Playgroup, and Music with Dara support developmental milestones for ages 0-5.
- School-Age (Ages 7-12): Makerspace Activities include a Mother’s Day Beaded Amulet workshop on May 6 and “Building in Motion” with ZOOBs on May 12. Weekly programs include Afterschool Chess Club and seasonal Afternoon Crafts on Thursdays.

***Discussion of Director’s Report***

Three staff will now be attending the MLA conference. One staff member has resigned so staffing is now at 19 of original 24. The Director continues to refine options on modeling the budget to adhere to possible election outcomes. Annual statistics on usage will now be posted to the Board of Directors website page. Work is starting to fill the children’s librarian replacement due to recent retirement. The Director will add to the To Do list a sign for the Friends supported printer. We will canvass town departments for interest in the grandfather clock. The Director discussed future programming ideas include APLF funding. The Board is encouraged to attend the June events.

There was a Motion for approval of the following items for payment:

As the Library has received \$5,911.50 from the Shattuck fund to purchase of two gallery benches and one bike rack the Board approved the request to move forward with the purchase.

The Motions was seconded and voted as approved.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Gary Amberik	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
Marjorie Norman	Yes
Kathleen Waslov	Yes
John Williams	Yes

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

See points above on building repairs. The Board will draft op – ed letters to various media outlets and coordinate efforts with other grass roots groups for library support.

**FRIENDS REPORT**

A Pop-Up Book Sale at the COA was held April 28, 2026. Work continues to clean out the shed. The Friends supported the Great Duck Search as well as handing out material at Town meeting. The Friends will support the June 25<sup>th</sup> Summer Reading event with a Pop – up sale.

**APLF**

The next Meeting is June 10 and there will be continued coordination on support for the library in the upcoming elections.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Gary Amberik	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
Marjorie Norman	Yes
Kathleen Waslov	Yes
John Williams	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

End of Meeting Minutes