



DIRECTOR
KIMBERLY A. GRAD

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 – June 1, 2026

Attendees:

Trustees: Gary Amberik, Kathy Barker, Marjorie Norman, David Ross, John Williams

Director: Kimberly Grad

Attending by Zoom

Absent: Kathleen Waslov

Meeting was available via zoom

Published agenda:

- L. Approval of May 11, 2026 Minutes/VOTE
- II. Director's report – Project Updates
- III. Report from the Chair
- IV. Friends Update
- V. Vote nonunion to go into Executive Session for Purpose #2: To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations

Next Board Meeting July 6, 2026. Election results may require an interim meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting location at the Library and held by zoom was called to order at 6:04 pm. Motion to approve the Minutes May 11, 2026. The Motion was seconded and approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Gary Amberik	Yes
Kathy Barker	Yes
Marjorie Norman	Yes
David Ross	Yes
John Williams	Yes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Service Hours

Closed on Friday, June 19, 2026 for Juneteenth

FY27 Budget

No further action may be taken until we know the outcome of the election.

Private Funds

The next meeting of the Abbot Public Library Foundation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10.

Building Updates (approvals needed)

- Exterior OS&Y valve will be replaced June 4 (rescheduled)
- Service call with Apex (Lighting controls) - scheduled for June 5 - (4 hours = \$800, 8 hours \$1,600)
- Kraft Power - replacement parts needed (\$1,062.25) *generator*
- Boston Mechanical, sprinkler repair (\$931.00)
- Viking service agreement (\$4,128) - Maintenance FY27 programming BMS system
- Bonnet Repair for the Friendship ship model. (\$1,628) - Carten Fund
- The new ribbon bike rack has been delivered
- The new ship model (Constitution) has been delivered. (Donated by Alice Arena)

Miscellaneous

- A staff committee is being formed to take the Library of Things to the next level. Move to a more location.
- Marketing updates for June and July include a second level of Constant Contact newsletters, showcasing reminders twice a month in addition to the full versions of the monthly newsletters facilitate sign up

May Statistics in Brief:

(provided at meeting)

	<i>April 2026</i>	<i>May 2026</i>
Card holders	9,353	9,417 (highest number in last 12 months)
Items checked out	17,428 (6,595 digital)	16,442 (6,296 digital)
Meeting Room use	234 sessions, attended by 573	261 sessions, attended by 519
Programs	56 programs attended by 822	53 programs attended by 672
Door Counts	6,489 (3,104 main & 3,385 lower)	6,052 (2,781 main & 3,271 lower)

June Program highlights:

Adult Programs and Exhibits

- Marblehead 250! & Local History: Town Historian Donald Doliber is scheduled to present a hybrid lecture on Captain Samuel Russell Trevett's heroic actions at Bunker Hill, continuing the town's pre-revolutionary commemoration.
- The library will host *New York Times* bestselling author Meg Waite Clayton for a presentation of *Typewriter Beach* and a dessert reception, alongside author Phyllis Karas, who will discuss her New England true-crime family history *Curse of the Blumenthals*.
- In partnership with Road Scholar, the library will broadcast two virtual educational seminars in the Event Center: a D-Day retrospective with Dr. Spencer Jones and an aging-well workshop with counselor Luanne Mullin.
- Community drop-in programs include weekly one-on-one tech tutoring with Theresa Milewski, mental health resource walk-in hours with clinician Gina Rabbitt, and the Friends-sponsored "Coffee at the Library" Friday mornings.
- The Carten Gallery will debut its summer exhibit, "In the Garden," featuring large-format color photographs of English estates taken on vintage film by Gail Giarrusso. Join the reception on Monday, June 8 at 7 pm.

Teen Programs

- Technical Resource Specialist Dan Saulnier will host interactive workshops teaching teens how to design geometric Spirograph art using 3D printers and build flying fan mechanisms using Snap Circuits.
- Staff will head offsite to Shubie's Marketplace for Marblehead Pride's Family Fun Day to connect with local youth, distribute custom LGBTQ+ book recommendation lists, and provide craft activities.

Children's Programs

- Summer Reading Kickoff: The "Unearth a Story" summer reading program is set to launch on June 25 with a major courtyard celebration featuring adoptable dogs from Cape Ann Animal Aid, local food vendors, games with Sustainable Marblehead, and a Friends book sale.
- Books from the Marblehead Schools Summer Reading lists will make their debut in the library on June 5.
- Upcoming science and crafting events include a "Shell Builders" marine touch-tank workshop with Salem Sound Coastwatch, Father's Day jewelry making with EOS Designs Studio, and an educational presentation on bee swarms by Carlo Lopez Ricco.
- Elementary students will be invited to explore introductory 3D modeling in Tinkercad, circuit-building logic, and mechanical design in the Makerspace.

- Early Childhood Literacy: Early development routines will remain a weekly priority through ongoing sessions of the Music and Movement Playgroup, CFCE Book Worms, and Debbie Leibowitz's popular Story Time A-Go-Go.

Discussion of Director's Report

In review of May statistics, there was the highest card level in past month. There will be a plan to evaluate attendance numbers per program to be sure not over resourcing programs with low attendance. The smashed window in the lower level will be fixed. The police believe it may have been intentional over weekend. There was a power outage due to storm. Evaluation is ongoing on the number of elevator outages. The director plans to request \$15,000 from APLF to support programming, marketing, licensing, technology and professional development. And if override doesn't pass, there will be a need for funds for materials. As the maintenance budget has been fully incurred the town is allowing access reserve funds. It is estimated that this may be \$4,500.00 excluding elevator and glass repair. The Driftwood Club is looking at the back garden plans and intent to access APLF funds, which will likely need a presentation

The Thompson Maker Space is expanding with additional activities. A recommendation will be developed on the ship model installation.

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

- Boston Mechanical, sprinkler repair (\$931.00) via override fund
- Viking service agreement (\$4,128) - Maintenance FY27 programming BMS system for next year
- Bonnet Repair for the Friendship ship model. (\$1,628) – via Override fund

The Motions was seconded and voted as approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

<i>Gary Amberik</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kathy Barker</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Marjorie Norman</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>David Ross</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>John Williams</i>	<i>Yes</i>

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

See points above on building repairs.

FRIENDS REPORT

The Friends Board is considering elimination of membership dues as there is no membership chair and the return on dues is not worth the effort. Book sales are the big moneymaker for the Friends. Monetary donations are always gratefully accepted. Participating

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
Suggested dates for future board meetings are July 16, September 17, October 15,
November 19, and December 17, 2026, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

APLF

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

Need more members and dedicated fund raisers and events program. Planning the 150 years anniversary, annual appeal and gala.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

<i>Gary Amberik</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kathy Barker</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Marjorie Norman</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>David Ross</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>John Williams</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM and went into Executive session

End of Meeting Minutes