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**Friends of the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers
 Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, April 16, 2025**

**Minutes**

Attendees: Ellen Clarkson, Elizabeth Chouinard, Marsha Coogan, Anne Casey, Mary Saratora, Maryann Kowalski, Deb Wilson, Sharon Jaworski, Library Director Noelle Boc

Ellen Clarkson, President welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**Approval of the minutes** - Motion made by Elizabeth Chouinard to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2025Board Meeting. Mary Saratora seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

**Membership Report** - Ellen Clarkson reported that there are a total of 88 members for 2025. Two new members joined this month, one a renewal and one a new member.

There was a suggestion to reach out to people who hadn’t renewed memberships. Others agreed and felt that any time Friends sponsors an event, we should have a membership table set up. Anyone joining in May will have free entry to the Preview Party the night before the Book Sale. It was also suggested that people joining the Friends post-Book Sale might be offered a discount since their membership would end in December. There was no motion as the group felt that it was a discussion for a future meeting.

**Museum Pass Program -** The Cape Ann Museum is currently being renovated so admission is free. It remains on the list of offerings. Passes to the New England Aquarium and Zoo New England are also available.

We have purchased 50 passes to the Harvard Museum. If four people attend, they will pay half the fee per person.

We have also purchased a Trustees GO which provides patrons free or reduced admission to Trustees properties. We have not yet received that pass.

A motion was made by Maryann Kowalski and seconded by Ellen Clarkson to renew the North Shore Children’s Museum Pass for up to a 10% increase in the past fee of $350. This new pass will be activated in August. All in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Marsha Coogan and seconded by Maryann Kowalski to purchase two passes to the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield for $100. This is a physical pass that provides discounted entry into the museum for up to six people. The motion passed.

**Finance report -** The Friends received the $2000 grant money from the Danvers Cultural Council. We also received two donations to the Friends in memory of Leonara Weir. Ellen sent thank you notes to the donors and will notify the Weir family of the donations. The piano maintenance is complete. The cost was $300.

**Calendar review/ Past events and upcoming events**

Tuesday, April 22, 6:30-7:30 pm is the Book Sale Kick-Off meeting. Anne Casey and Michele Chausse are Chairpersons. Schedules and an opportunity for sign-ups will be on the agenda. As is ice cream!

Monday, April 28 is Special Visit to Endicott Park event with the rangers. It is a family event that is expected to last about one hour, 4:30pm-5:30pm. We will provide small water bottles for participants. The motion was made by Ellen Clarkson and seconded by Marsha Coogan to approve $300 for the event, including five copies of the book, *A Day at Endicott Park,* authored by the rangers. All in favor; motion carried. The books will be given as door prizes to five lucky participants.

Wednesday, April 30 “Blissful Family Concert” is being presented at the library.

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30-8:00 pm Annual Meeting in the Gordon Room. The speaker will be JoeAnn Hart, an award-winning fiction writer from Gloucester.

Monday, June 2-Saturday, June 7 is the time scheduled for setting up the Gordon Room for the Book Sale.

Tuesday, June 10, 6:00-8:00 pm is the Book Sale Preview Party for Friends of the Library members.

Wednesday, June 11- Saturday, June 14 is the period scheduled for the Book Sale.

Wednesday, August 6, 6:00-8:00 pm The Friends of the Library is sponsoring a family concert by Steve Blunt and Friends. A motion was made by Martha Coogan and seconded by Elizabeth Chouinard to pay this group $630, which was slightly more than the $600 we had previously approved at the last meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

Saturday, October 25, 2:00-3:30 pm The Delvena Theatre will present “Truly Eleanor,” a performance about Eleanor Roosevelt.

Saturday, November 15, 2:00-3:30 a classical music performance will be presented.

We discussed the possibility of a repeat of the Oral History program that was presented in early March.

A suggestion was also made that we consider changing our Open House to March rather than our traditional December date.

**Fundraising ideas -** Members put forth a number of ideas for fundraising. Chipotle hosts fundraisers, sharing 25% of the proceeds. They are run differently than Texas RoadHouse events, but may be worth exploring. Director Noelle Boc described a library mini-golf fundraiser that would be set up in the library for two days with opportunities for sponsorships of different aspects of the event. She has found it to be very successful and enjoyed by many library patrons in other communities. Other suggestions were a Cookie Walk and an event called Books in Bloom. It was also suggested we raffle a kids’ basket at the Steve Blunt and Friends Concert on August 6.

**Board vacancies -** Maryann Kowalski made the motion to present the slate of nominations for officers of the Friends of the Library at the annual meeting to be voted on at that time. Mary Saratora seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

PRESIDENT: MICHELE CHAUSSE, 24 WESTON STREET, DANVERS
VICE PRESIDENT: ELLEN CLARKSON, 503 LOCUST STREET, DANVERS
RECORDING SECRETARY: SHARON JAWORSKI, 196 PINE STREET, DANVERS
TREASURER: PATRICIA BAKER, 100 KIRKBRIDE DRIVE, UNIT 215-1, DANVERS
DIRECTORS: LYNETTE GRAY, 23 PRINCE STREET #3, DANVERS
 KATHLEEN YOUNG, 141 HOLTEN STREET, DANVERS
 TRUDY CULLEN, 5 BERRY STREET, DANVERS

**Library updates** - Noelle Boc, PIL Director, provided an update on staff additions and reassignments. She talked about the potential for federal cuts to the state’s funding for libraries, which amounts to $3.5 million from the Institute of Museums and Libraries. That funding provides for a statewide database, money for the summer reading program, and may affect continued grant funding for the PIL’s services for deaf and hard of hearing persons.

Friends, here is a link to the American Library Association: ala.org, and their position on possible changes. <https://www.ala.org/news/2025/03/ala-statement-white-house-assault-institute-museum-and-library-services>

Noelle has been working on booking Sign Language Interpreters for events and meetings that may need this support, particularly if the program is longer than an hour or if we know there are accessibility issues. Noelle indicated that two interpreters would come together for programs where they may be needed. It was suggested that Sign Language interpreters for the Delvina Theatre performance would provide access for some attendees. Noelle was able to arrange for signers for our Annual Meeting.

***Upcoming meetings: Book Sale Kick-Off, April 22, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the classroom and
Annual Meeting, May 14, 2025 at 6:30 in the Gordon Room. Please spread the word!***