



**Friends of the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

Attendees: Michele Chausse, Ellen Clarkson, Pat Baker, Mary Saratora, Kathy Young, Marsha Coogan, Donna Greenberg, Anne Casey, Noelle Boc (Library Director)

Welcome: Michele Chausse called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026 meeting was made by Ellen Clarkson and seconded by Anne Casey. The motion passed.

Membership Report: Ellen Clarkson presented the membership report. Currently there are 127 members, 38 are new members. In March 2025 there were 86 members. Thirty-six members have not renewed their memberships. Ellen will continue to reach out to prospective members before the Book Sale. Michele and Ellen will meet to review these names.

Museum Pass Program: Pat Baker presented the Museum Pass Program report. She noted that Noelle Boc is promoting the passes on Facebook, highlighting a new museum each week. Michele Chausse made a motion to fund the following passes and Anne Casey seconded. All approved.

Aquarium Summer passes \$200

Trustees of the Reservation \$200

Basketball Hall of Fame \$100

Griffin Museum of Photography (new) \$100

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer and budget reports were presented by Pat Baker.

Our existing CD matures on April 23rd. We cannot get rates yet, but when they are available we must decide the length of the new CD (6 or 12 months). This should be known by our April meeting.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Friends provide a \$25 Target gift card to each of the 31 staff members for a total cost of \$775. Pat will buy the cards using the Friends debit card. The motion to fund the gift bags was made by Pat Baker and seconded by Marsha Coogan. All approved.

Lynette Gray has gift bags and will add an Almond Joy candy bar since the theme this year is "Find Your Joy." Lynette needs 4 people to package the gift bags

Upcoming Programs and Events: Marsha Coogan reviewed “Spirituals” presented by Music for Many Occasions. Most of the comments were positive. Eighty people attended. Since the group is popular, Marsha will reach out now for February 2027.

On **April 16** at 6:30 p.m. in the Gordon Room, the Friends will host “Bitter Sweet History: 18th Century Chocolate and the American Revolution” presented by Michele Gabrielson. Michele Chausse is working on a flyer. We will provide water and a cookie tray. Michele and Noelle will ask the Danvers Historical Society to help us promote the event.

Our Annual Meeting is on **May 13** at 6:30 p.m in the Gordon Room. We are still trying to find an author-speaker. Julia Glass is unavailable and Eric Jay Dolin is too expensive. We discussed bringing him another time, but tabled this discussion for the future. Another suggestion was Peter Swanson. Michele will reach out to him and will contact the Executive Board when she finds a speaker. Pat made a motion and Ellen seconded that we budget no more than \$500. All approved.

Our Summer Concert date to sponsor a band is **August 10**. Marsha will contact the Recreation Department to see if they have a list of recommended bands. Suggestions were Harmony Northshore Barbershop, and Steve O’Connell Sing Along. The Billy Joel cover band which had been mentioned last meeting was too expensive. Last year we spent \$630.

Book Sale Updates: Anne Casey, Chair of the Book Sale, has scheduled a Kick Off meeting for our annual Book Sale for April 21 at 6:30 p.m. Dates for drop off of book donations are June 1-6. The sale will be held from June 9-13. Meredith Molloy will create a raffle basket. A motion was made by Pat Baker and seconded by Ellen Clarkson to purchase a Kindle for the basket. All approved. Ellen is checking with the Hamilton Wenham Library regarding where they donated their unsold books.

Library Updates: Noelle Boc updated us on the budget situation across the state. Her budget is \$1.7million. Her salaries were “right sized.” She submitted a budget with a 7% increase, but anticipated the next few years will be tight with staffing impacts, hopefully unfilled and not reduced hours.

The town Pride Party will be June 13, **1-4 p.m. in** the library yard. This overlaps with the Book Sale. There was discussion regarding whether we would have a table for the event, but no decision was made.

Noelle is looking into book bags with the Friends logo to sell at the Book Sale.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the classroom