



**Friends of the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**Attendees:** Michele Chausse, Ellen Clarkson, Deb Wilson, Jean Sabeau, Anne Casey, Mary Saratora, Pamela Santin, Marsha Coogan, Sharon Jaworski

**Welcome**

Michele Chausse called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ellen Clarkson motioned to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2026 Board Meeting. Sharon Jaworski seconded. The motion passed.

**Membership report**

Ellen presented the current membership enrollment. Presently we have a total of 129 members, including 38 new members. We have 68 members at the \$20 level, 22 at the Supporter level, 25 at the Sponsor Level, and 14 at the Benefactor level. This number is ahead of last year's membership at this time; usually membership increases during the Book Sale. Our next Membership Drive begins in the upcoming fall for the 2027 calendar year.

**Museum Pass Program**

Pam Santin reported on the Museum Pass Program. She said the pass for the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester is now available. There was discussion regarding the Children's Museum in Dover and the Children's Museum in Acton. The discussion was tabled pending research on these options.

Pam talked about ways to promote increased usage of the Museum Pass Program. She mentioned that it would be advantageous to have flyers regarding the museums offered in the Children's Room since many parents may not be entering the library through the main entry doors and see the offerings. Pam encouraged members to take flyers to hang on bulletin boards throughout town. She also mentioned that the Danvers Senior Center has been featuring a different museum in their monthly newsletter. In May they are highlighting the Massachusetts Audubon pass.

**Treasurer's Report**

Michele reviewed the Budget and Finance Reports for our April meeting as treasurer Pat Baker was away. She sent a reminder that the Friends' CD at M&T Bank was maturing on April 23, 2026. We could add the funds to our checking account or roll it over into another CD. The attendees agreed that we should roll it over. A motion was made by Sharon Jaworski that the Executive Board decide whether the CD would be renewed for 6 or 12 months, depending on the best interest rate. Ellen Clarkson seconded and the motion carried.

The Friends are supporting the library's summer reading program. The \$437.34 expenditure will be used to purchase publicity material, incentives, and rewards for both the children's and teens' programs.

A motion was made by Deb Wilson and seconded by Anne Casey to fund \$1,000 for the classical music concert to be held in November. The motion carried.

The Friends recently received a memorial donation of \$100.

### **Board slate for 2026-2027:**

Due to her recent move to Gloucester, Michele Chausse will be stepping down from the board. That position is open. Pam Santin nominated Ellen Clarkson for President for the upcoming year. Sharon Jaworski seconded the nomination. Marsha Coogan has stepped forward to run for the Vice President's position that Ellen would be vacating. Lynette Gray has served as a Director for a number of years and is stepping down from that position. Deb Wilson has agreed to put her name on the slate to replace Lynette. Pat Baker and Sharon Jaworski are continuing in their current positions on the Board. Elections will be held at our Annual Meeting on May 13.

#### **Nominees for Board of Directors**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Ellen Clarkson</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Marsha Coogan</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Pat Baker</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Sharon Jaworski</b>
<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Kathy Young</b>
<b>Trudy Cullen</b>	<b>Deb Wilson</b>

It was noted that the Museum and Program Committees could use the additional support of members who are willing to assist the chairs of those committees.

### **Annual Book Sale**

Anne Casey, co-chair of the book sale, reminded members of the Book Sale Kick Off Meeting on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. Anne noted that emails had gone out to members regarding volunteering for the upcoming book sale. The drop-off and organizing will occur during the week of June 1-6 during regular library hours. The sale is held June 11-14, with our Members Only Preview Party on Tuesday, June 10th from 6-8 p.m. We accept gently-used books, paperbacks, CDs, DVDs and vinyl records.

The Friends will be raffling a themed basket with gift certificates, a Kindle and other fun summer items during the Book Sale. Tickets will be \$5. This was a successful venture at last year's Book Sale.

Unsold books will be picked up on Saturday, June 16 by Bay State Books. We will need a good number of volunteers to assist on this day.

### **2026 Calendar Review:**

The Friends hosted an entertaining evening on Wednesday, April 16. Michele Gabrielson, dressed in colonial attire, shared the history of the cacao bean and chocolate in the world and our country's early history. She had artifacts and beans for the audience's perusal and a yummy chocolate treat!

On Tuesday, April 21 the Friends recognized the staff of the library during National Library Week. Each of the 31 staff members received a gift bag of goodies, including a Target gift card and a personal handwritten note thanking each of them. Lynette Gray, Ellen Clarkson and Jean Sabeau assembled the gift bags and wrote the notes.

Our Annual Meeting of the Friends will be from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13 in the Gordon Room. Members are encouraged to attend our final meeting of the 2025-2026 year. There will be a brief business meeting and Board elections to begin the evening. Afterwards, local author Betty Cayouette will make her second

appearance at our library to discuss her new book, *I Kissed Her First*.

As previously noted, the Friends' annual book sale is being held June 9-13. Donations are accepted the week of June 1. Volunteers will be stocking and organizing books that week.

MERJ is being sponsored by the Friends during the Danvers Summer Music Series. They will be performing on the evening of Monday, August 10 from 6-8 p.m. at the gazebo next to the library lawn.

On Saturday September 26, 2026, 2-4 p.m., the Friends is sponsoring "The Music of Paul McCartney" by Dan Kirouac. This event will be held in the Gordon Room.

Friends is sponsoring the return of the classical music performance that was so lauded last Fall. This year's concert is planned for Saturday, November 14, 2026. The program will feature a violinist, a pianist and a cellist.

Many thanks to the Danvers Cultural Council for their financial support of the Friends' events.

Next meeting is the ANNUAL MEETING, Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 pm in the Gordon Room. Following a brief business meeting, award-winning, local author Betty Cayouette will discuss her latest book and speak about her work.