



Friends of the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

May 13, 2026

Friends of the Library Attendees: Michele Chausse, Ellen Clarkson, Marsha Coogan, Anne Casey, Kathy Young, Deb Wilson, Trudy Cullen, Sharon Jaworski, Cate Ryan, Mary Saratora, Pamela Santin, Jean Sabeau, Donna Eovacious, Joanne Mills, Lori Packert, Patricia Maloney, Elizabeth Chouinard, Charlie Coogan, Library Director Noelle Boc

Welcome: Michele Chausse called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. She recognized the contributions to our productive and successful year by the officers and directors of the Friends, Ellen Clarkson (VP), Pat Baker (treasurer), Sharon Jaworski (recording secretary) and directors Lynette Gray, Kathy Young and Trudy Cullen, as well as Marsha Coogan for overseeing our calendar of programming. Michele announced that she is stepping down from her presidency due to her recent move to Gloucester. She enjoyed the various roles she had in her past three years and expressed admiration for the people who are committed to the betterment of Danvers. Michele was applauded for her commitment and energy to the mission of Friends.

Approval of Minutes: Before approving Minutes of the April 15 board Meeting a motion was made to correct the dates of the Book Sale. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Michele outlined the varied accomplishments of the Friends this year. Membership has increased to 130 members which is an increase of 43% over last year's enrollment. Thirty percent are new members and represent 11 local communities. The improved tracking of event attendees, enhanced marketing and more opportunities for members of the community to join in our work were cited as reasons for our growth in membership. Attendees of the meeting were invited to join that evening if they weren't already members. Individual memberships are \$20.

President's End of the Year Report: Michele reported that the Friends sponsored programming that the library may not have been able to offer, such as: a Chinese acrobat program this summer and bead making for kids; a 'zine-making workshop with a Boston artist for teens; and a history of Motown program and hip-hop movement class for adults. Friends also underwrites promotional materials and incentives for the summer reading initiatives. Friends has proudly supported programming that is culturally diverse, spans different age groups and has been well-received.

The offerings the Friends hosted and funded this past year include:

- our second February concert with a Boston-based gospel choir who entertained and educated the audience about the roots of spirituals
- a continuation of our first Oral History workshop where leaders helped participants further develop their own stories
- a dramatic reenactment of significant events in the life of Eleanor Roosevelt
- a classical recital of violin and piano
- and a Rev250 related talk on the role of chocolate in colonial life.

The Friends also connected with the community through our Annual Holiday Open House (held in February this year) and through our Book Sale.

Upcoming events sponsored by the Friends include the band MERJ at the Danvers Summer Concert Series in August and a talented singer performing The Music of Paul McCartney in September.

These events and the programs we host are made possible primarily through memberships, our annual Book Sale and a grant from the Danvers Community Council via the Mass Cultural Council.

Museum Pass Program: Michele noted that perhaps the Friends' most significant gift to the town is our Museum Pass Program. This year Pam Santin chaired the Museum Pass Program. Friends currently funds passes to a record twenty-one museums/attractions, adding Historic New England, Mass Audubon and the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester. Passes have been used 1,130 times in the past 12 months by 811 patrons. In the past five years we have seen a 454% increase in pass utilization. These free or discount admission passes are available to anyone with a PIL card, providing affordable access to an array of cultural institutions for individuals and families alike.

Finance and Budget Report: Michele presented the Treasurer's Finance and Budget Reports for the past year . These documents are attached below.

Library Update: Noelle Boc thanked the Friends for their ongoing support and active programming. As the funding from the State Budget is reduced, the Friends' support may become even more needed and important.

The ongoing monthly Song Circle was funded by an online vote of Friends Officers and Directors.

Outgoing Board Member Appreciation: Ellen Clarkson recognized and thanked Lynette Gray who is stepping down from her longtime role as a Director. Among her contributions as Director she has chaired the membership drive, worked planning and preparing craft materials for the Open House and assembled gift bags for the Library Staff Appreciation Day for a number of years.

Ellen also recognized the contributions of outgoing President Michele Chausse citing her energy, professionalism and commitment to Friends, as well as her efforts to expand the programs and offerings of the Friends to be more inclusive and diverse.

Election of 2026-2027 Election of Board of Directors

A motion was made and seconded to elect the following officers and directors:

President	Ellen Clarkson
Vice President	Marsha Coogan
Recording Secretary	Sharon Jaworski
Treasurer	Pat Baker
Directors	Trudy Cullen
	Deborah Wilson
	Kathleen Young

The motion passed unanimously

Guest Speaker: Betty Cayouette, a romance author from Salem returned to PIL to discuss her new (yet to be distributed book), *I Kissed Her First*. She read a passage and answered audience questions regarding her book, her inspiration and the writing process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

[Budget May 2026](#)

[Summary May 2026.docx.pdf](#)

The first meeting of the 2026-2027 year is on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gordon Room.

