

Berkley Public Library Trustees Meeting Minutes

April 14th, 2026

ATTENDING: Paula Dugan, Chairperson: Megan Silva, Trustee; Dean Larabee, Trustee; Carol Buote, Director; Emily Taylor, Secretary, Cathy Charette, President of the Friends of the Library

BILLS: Bills were reviewed and signed.

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order at 7:15 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th, 2026, at 7:15 PM.

MINUTES OF PAST MEETING: March minutes were read and accepted into the record.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT: Jenni set up some passive programs to continue in her absence. These include Bookworms, Chess Club, Open Play, Play and Learn, Guessing Jar and Zine Making. The iRead materials were received and summer reading programming is being prepared.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director's Report for the period of March 11th to April 14th, 2026, was read. The April book club discussed *Hester* by Laurie Rico Albanese. The May book club will discuss *Murder on the Page* by Daryl Wood Gerber. Current book displays are "Books Make Your Mind Bloom" and the Massachusetts Center for the Book reading challenge. SAILS is exploring selecting a new library network online catalog. Amy participated in a taskforce to evaluate the current software and two potential new choices. Amy attended the BCS groundbreaking to represent the library. Carol presented to FINCOM on March 17th where the -6% budget was changed to a -4.5% budget due to the cost of health insurance coming in more favorably than expected. Carol attended various meetings and workshops and has prepared a Library Services presentation that she will give to Happy Hearts on April 16th. Carol has been working on the Final Report for the new library design and did the final submission on March 19th, ahead of the March 31st deadline. The MBLC posted library statistics for FY25, and our library is the lowest in the network for our budget from the town, our materials expenditures, Children's Librarian salary, and the Director's salary. The Children's Librarian job was posted internally for a week and was then offered to the community. Some resumes have been received and interviews have begun. There was one promising candidate who decided not to continue with the interview process as the workload was too significant with too little pay. Carol received a records request for employment information from 1996/1997 which required significant research. The federal mandate is only 7 years. Meet Your Farmer event takes place on April 25th. Carol is looking into switching phone service to TMLP and she is looking further into BrainHQ.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: The Friends met on March 25th with three new members. The clothing shed made \$152 in March, making almost \$400 since it was brought in. This has covered almost one-third of the library passes. There have been no issues with the shed except textbooks are being put in the shed which Cathy has to throw in the trash. Friends voted not to participate in 6/28 craft fair. Any items that would be sold will be sold at any events the library holds. Future fundraisers were discussed. It was suggested that Friends and Library Building Committee get together to put together a larger fundraiser. Next meeting is 5/27.

POLICY REVIEW: Trustee Dean Larabee made a motion to accept the Library Closure policy in second reading. The motion was accepted. The next policy reviewed was Lending to Decertified Libraries. No changes were made to the policy. Trustee Dean Larabee made a motion to accept the policy in first reading and move on to a second reading at the May meeting. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC INPUT: No public input.

PAST BUSINESS: No past business.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

Adjourned at 7:47 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Emily Taylor, Secretary