

Berkley Public Library Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 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 7:24 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, at 7:15 PM.

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

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT: Total attendance for 11 programs was 209 with an average attendance of 19 participants. The January average was 15 participants. The Winter Reading Program wrapped up with at least 24 students participating. There were seven winter reading champions who completed their whole bingo card. In total, including January, there were 103 engagements/participants across activities. All information and materials will be put together before Jenni's last day on March 10th. Local farmers from Heart Beets Farm want to set up a spring collaboration. Materials from iRead are due to arrive by the end of March. Dates were set for Backyard Band Jams with Rhonda for June 26th at 10:00AM, July 25th at 10:30AM and August 21st at 10:00AM.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director's Report for the period of February 11th to March 10th, 2026, was read. The March book club discussed *Nobody's Fool* by Harlan Coben. The April book club will discuss *Hester* by Laurie Rico Albanese, an imagined origin story for *The Scarlet Letter*. Noella's Adult Winter Reading program ended on February 14th and had nine participants and one raffle winner. Amy and Noella's "Blind Date with a Book" program ended on February 14th and had 11 participants. The current book displays are "Books Make Your Mind Bloom" and the Massachusetts Center for the Book reading challenge. Carol gave a public presentation about the needs of the library on February 26th. Carol attended a Supporting Aging Populations webinar, MDEP meeting, SAILS meeting, Canva webinar, 250th Celebration Planning meeting and a department head meeting. Carol attended an MBLC Moral Support meeting during which she shared the new design. Carol is working on the final report which is due March 31st. The library was closed from February 24th to the 25th due to the blizzard. Jenni Bentley gave her notice. Carol sent the resignation letter and a job posting to Town Hall.

OPEN CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN POSITION: It was discussed how the library could better support the Children's Librarian position. It was suggested that possibly making the Children's Librarian a 30-hour per week position to give them more time to plan programs would be conducive. It was also discussed that possibly adding more positions would allow them to split the work but the concern with physical space in the library was raised. With potential town budget cuts, this also may not be possible at the time.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: There was no meeting in February. There was an issue with the clothing shed pickup due to the snow. The shed was able to be emptied on March 20th. The shed made \$75 in February. The next meeting is March 25th.

BRAIN HQ SUBSCRIPTION: Chairperson Paula Dugan was offered a two-month free trial for Brain HQ. Brain HQ offers games to strengthen different parts of the brain regarding memory and processing. It allows you to have personalized exercises and set goals. It was decided to put the subscription on hold and revisit when staffing has improved.

POLICY REVIEW: Closure of the library policy was reviewed in second reading. A paragraph was added giving the library director the discretion to keep the library open even if other town buildings were closed.

The policy was reviewed and will go to an obligatory second reading at the April meeting. Lending to Decertified Communities will be reviewed at the April meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT: No public input.

PAST BUSINESS: The thank you letter for the Carnegie Corporation was reviewed. A motion was made to approve and send out the letter.

CORRESPONDENCE: Berkley Community School is having a groundbreaking ceremony on March 20th at 10:00AM. Anyone is welcome to attend. The Department Head meeting sent around an agenda of upcoming meetings. Carol will be presenting at the FINCOM meeting on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00PM. A letter from MBLC sent around a flyer on their programs and support they offer.

Adjourned at 8:10 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Emily Taylor, Secretary