

HINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm in the Fearing Room of the Hingham Public Library. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Present: Chair Aylene Calnan, Vice Chair Eric Haskell, Treasurer Monica Melendes, Assistant Treasurer Meredith Hollander, Secretary Mirela Izmirlic, Trustees Thomas Carey, Elizabeth Eldredge, Alyson Molloy Hussey, David Mehegan, Judith Sneath, Michelle Paterniti, Trustee Ex Officio William Ramsey, Library Director Linda Stone, Assistant Library Director Anna Byrne, Library Business Administrator Dina Johnson, Secretary Assistant Nora Elicone and Julianne Mehegan

Absent: Trustees Arthur Garrity, Mona Pohl, Steven Weiss, Trustee's Ex Officio Lori Magner and Katie Roberts

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Calnan reviewed the minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting and it was found that no amendments were necessary. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following vote was unanimously approved by the Board:

Voted: To approve the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2025.

Finance Committee:

The Board thanks Alyson Hussey for her dedicated efforts and commitment she put into making the Library Links Fundraiser such a success. The net amount raised was \$90,515. Although the Library Links

was free to the community the next day, additional donations were made and will be used to plan two special events in the upcoming fiscal year. At the Finance Committee Meeting, Director Stone presented a balanced budget to the Trustees with only minor changes from the previous FY25 budget.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following vote was unanimously approved by the Board:

Voted: To approve the Trustee Budget for FY2026.

Treasurer’s Report:

As of March 31, 2025, investments totaled \$3,498,926, representing a nine-month year-to-date increase of \$66,447. Total cash and cash equivalents in the investment portfolio equaled \$173,502. The total available cash in the checking account equaled \$137,408.

The current market value of the portfolio as of May 15, 2025 was \$3,569,553. The current cash balance available in the checking account as of May 15, 2025 was \$128,538. Current holdings in the investment portfolio are allocated as follows:

Policy Range	Current Allocation
Equities 65-85%	75% - representing 39 total positions Top 5 holdings – Amazon, Alphabet, Apple, Broadcom, VISA
Fixed Income 5-30%	20% - representing 8 total positions; 4 US T-Bills / Notes, 3 Bond ETF & 1 Treasury Fund
Cash 0-20%	5% - representing Schwab US Treasury Money Fund, Cash, Accrued Dividends

Income Statement for the nine months ending March 31, 2025:

For the first nine months of this year, revenue totaled \$312,336 and expenses totaled \$191,162, resulting in an operating surplus of \$121,174. This surplus can be attributed to an increase in contributions from our annual drive, the Library Links fundraiser, and a timing adjustment with regard to the payment of books and materials expenses. The portfolio investments have weathered the early 2025 financial storm well enough to hold an increase in valuation year-to-date. The lowest the portfolio valuation decreased to in 2025 was still higher than this year's opening valuation. The portfolio's highest month-end valuation this fiscal year was January 31, 2025. The March 31, 2025 portfolio valuation has an increased value from the period of market and portfolio weakness and the drop earlier this calendar year.

Directors Report:

Personnel: The Library is in the process of interviewing and hiring part-time staff to fill the available positions of the newly retired Mary Beth Keif and Mary Ellen Miller. Director Stone is pleased to announce that the Associate Librarian - Circulation Supervisor position has been filled in-house by Senior Library Technician Jenn Kyle. Jenn has worked at the Library since 2015 and has most recently taken on responsibilities of putting together the monthly newsletter, craft programming, displays and scheduling artists for art gallery exhibits in the role of Art Gallery Coordinator.

Director Stone also commended Assistant Library Director Anna Byrne along with the HPL Staff, for managing the in-person, day to day operations of the Library while she has been recovering from knee surgery.

Budget: The Town's FY26 Operating Budget for the Library has been voted on and approved at the Town meeting as presented and without reductions for a total of \$2,465,986 for Personnel and Expenses. The Town's FY26 Capital Outlay Budget for the Library was also voted on and approved at the Town meeting for a total of \$156,000. This amount will

include funds for Engineering Studies necessary for the procurement of a new chiller, planned phases of carpet replacement and ongoing furniture and computer replacement or purchases.

Town: The Select Board has a new member and new Chair. Congratulations to Julie Strehle as the newest member of the Select Board who replaces Joe Fisher, and congratulations to William Ramsey who is the newest Chair and replaces Mr. Fisher as a Library Trustee ex officio. We thank Mr. Fisher for serving on the Library Board and look forward to working with Mr. Ramsey in the coming year. Assistant Town Administrator Michelle Monsegeur will be leaving her position in Hingham this summer. She has been a tremendous asset to the Town of Hingham and will be missed. Ms. Monsegeur's position has been posted.

Library: With the school year ending and final exams approaching, the Board has approved the Library be open an extra hour, until 10pm, on Monday June 16, 2025. During this time, Teen Librarian Meghan McCusker has reserved extra study space for the teens in the Whiton and Fearing Rooms along with providing snack tables in the afternoon and pizza on Monday night. Therapy dogs will also be available to give students a momentary break from studying.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following vote was unanimously approved by the Board:

Voted: To extend the Library hours on Monday, June 16, 2025 to 10PM for the purpose of students studying for finals.

OCLN: Beginning on July 1, 2025 for the upcoming fiscal year 2026, Director Stone will finish her current term as Vice President of the Executive Board of the Old Colony Library Network and will take over the position of President of the Executive Board. The Executive Board is a nine-member governing board of all OCLN libraries.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Vice Chair Haskell consulted with the law firm of Hemenway & Barnes, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, regarding the issue of whether the Library could successfully apply for 501c3 status. The attorneys at Hemenway & Barnes issued an opinion that the Library is an integral part of the Town of Hingham and therefore unlikely to be recognized by the IRS as a 501c3.

Development Committee:

Trustee Hussey worked tirelessly on this year's Library Links Fundraiser with great success, but it was suggested that there should be clear guidelines in place as to how to go about fundraising. The Development Committee will be discussing if this is a task the Trustees should be taking on or contract out. It will also review notes from Trustee Hussey on what worked and what did not work for the fundraiser. Trustee Hussey also asked the Board to write personal thank you notes on behalf of the Trustees to the generous Hole sponsors of the Library Links fundraiser. The sponsor information was passed out along with note cards from the Library.

Nominating Committee:

The following names were presented to the Board of Trustees as officers of the Library Board for FY26:

Chair	Aylene Calnan
Vice Chair	Eric Haskell
Treasurer	Monica Melendes
Asst. Treasurer	Meredith Hollander

Secretary

Mirela Izmirlic

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following vote was unanimously approved by the Board:

Voted: For the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

No other nominations were made. All officers have accepted their positions.

The following name was presented to the Board of Trustees as the new Member of the Corporation:

Michelle Paterniti

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following vote was unanimously approved by the Board:

Voted: For Michelle Paterniti to be the new Member of the Corporation.

No other nominations were made and Ms. Paterniti has agreed to accept this position.

Ode to an Esteemed Trustee, Farwell to David Mehegan

After 20 years of unsurpassed dedication, David Mehegan has decided to step down as a Trustee of the Board at the Hingham Public Library. Chair Calnan stated that Mr. Mehegan was a continuous resource for all with his knowledge and writing skills. Vice Chair Eric Haskell expressed his appreciation for Mr. Mehegan's knowledge of the Library's history, roots and current function. Mr. Mehegan was a mentor and guide to many and will be dearly missed. Trustee Carey also had words of gratitude for Mr.

Mehegan which will be in the appendix. Mr. Mehegan thanked the Board and said it was a privilege to be on the Board and that it was one of his greatest joys.

Matters Not Anticipated Within 48 Hours of the Meeting:

There were no other matters to discuss at this time.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following vote was unanimously approved by the Board:

Voted: To adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Elicone for
Mirela Izmirlic, Secretary