

Groton Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 11 2025, at 7 pm, Community Room

Approved, 4/8/2025

Attending in Person: Library Trustees Helena Altsman, Mark Gerath, Jennifer Petersen, Heidi Robes, Kristen von Campe, and David Zeiler. Library Director Vanessa Abraham and Assistant Director Sarah Breen were also present.

Absent: None

Call to Order

Chair Helena Altsman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Vote Summary

- Approval of February 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes (as amended). Moved by Heidi, seconded by Dave. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention.
- Approval of \$4,000 from LIGMEG to pay for funding for School-Year Teen Helper for the YA Librarian. Moved by Heidi, seconded by Dave. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention.
- Approval of \$1,000 from LIGMEG to pay for Sarah to attend the MLA conference. Moved by Heidi, seconded by Dave. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention.
- Approval of proposed FY2026 GPL Scheduled Holidays and Special Closing calendar. Moved by Heidi, seconded by Dave. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention.
- Adjourn. Moved by Heidi, seconded by Dave. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention.

Action Items

- Vanessa will do additional research regarding the water bubbler.
- Vanessa will explore hiring a third custodian.
- Vanessa will inquire about the price for the historical room painting.
- Vanessa will talk with the Girl Scout leader regarding the memorial rock garden proposal.

Monthly Report from the Director and Assistant Director

- Numerous donations to the GPL have been made in Geri Perry's name.
- Numerous "Anxious Generation" book discussion groups have been taking place.
- Josh Vollmar's article on Margaret Fuller is in the *Groton Herald*, and he will be giving a talk at the library as part of the Groton Reads series of events.
- Attendance at library events is higher at this point in the year than it was for the entire year in all previous years, except for last year.
- Valentine's Day event was very successful and popular.
- The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is being revamped.
- A successful partner event, "The Last Chapter," was held with Groton Neighbors and addressed end-of-life issues.
- Librarians discovered Hoopla has been offering AI-generated books and GPL opted to have all AI content removed from our collection offerings, except for book summaries.
- Town News - three overrides will be offered: one for the schools and two for firefighters (option 1 for six firefighters and option 2 for two firefighters).

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Action Items

- Approval of the Minutes from February 11, 2025 Meeting
 - Completed, see vote summary.
- Review Trustees' Calendar for Current Month
 - All calendar items reviewed.
- Review Trustees' Action Items for Current Month
 - All action items reviewed.
- Report on Action Items from Previous Meetings
 - All action items reviewed.

Budget & Finance

- Review Monthly Bills
 - All library bills reviewed.
- Review Monthly Budget Report
 - Monthly budget report reviewed.
- Other Budget & Finance
 - FY2026 Budget Updates
 - Report on Budget Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 22
 - The meeting went well.
 - Approve Funding for School-Year Teen Helper for the YA Librarian
 - Funding approved. See voting summary above.
 - Approve Funding to Send the Assistant Director to the MLA Conference
 - Funding approved. See voting summary above.

Building & Equipment

- Review Monthly Building & Equipment Project Tracker
 - Project Tracker reviewed.
- Discuss Girl Scout Bronze Project Idea Proposed
 - Girl Scouts want to honor a deceased troop member with a memorial rock garden.
 - There does not appear to be an appropriate location on the GPL property for such a garden.
- Other Building & Equipment
 - Report on Select Board Meeting March 10
 - There were no questions regarding the library
 - Electrical and Plumbing Project Updates
 - Happy with recent improvements and work
 - Other
 - None

Policy, Personnel, & Planning

- Approve FY2026 Holiday & Special Closing Schedule
 - Approved. See vote above.

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- Other Policy, Personnel, & Planning
 - Discuss Public Records Request and Library Privacy
 - Discussed the fact that all library patron accounts, information, and “intellectual pursuits” are protected by Mass General Laws.
 - Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 78, Section 7 explicitly protects the confidentiality of library records.
 - Other
 - None

Art & Endowment

- Report on Tarbell Charitable Trust
 - The Boutwell Tarbell Show has concluded, and we are delighted to have some Tarbell paintings returned to the library.
 - Tarbell Trustee Elizabeth Tarbell is hoping to curate an exhibition of Tarbell paintings themed around the “Tarbell, an American Story” theme.
- Groton Reads *Finding Margaret Fuller* by Allison Pataki
 - Programs are well attended.
 - Registrations doubled after the *New York Times Book Review* article by Megan Marshall on history vs historical fiction.

Other Business

- With respect to the Public Records Request from Metrogov.solutions that was made to all town departments, the GPL is exempt from it, as Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 78, Section 7 explicitly protects the confidentiality of library records.
- Other
 - None

Next Steps

- Review of Action Items from Current Meeting – see above.
- Review Upcoming Meetings & Events

Adjournment at 8:15 pm – see vote summary.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Petersen, Secretary