

## **Camden Public Library Board of Trustees**

Minutes of the June 19, 2025, meeting conducted in person and on Zoom.

### **Attendance**

A quorum was in attendance.

Present in person: Will Dailey, Patty Eddy, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Jeremy Pratt, Elizabeth Senders, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia

Present on Zoom: Marisa Baskin, Erin Donovan, Larry Ward, Kendra Watkins, Christina Young

Absent: Heather Shanklin

Non-board members present in person: Kristy Kilfoyle, Alison McKellar

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm EST by Kristen Smith.

1. There was no public comment.
2. Kristen Smith announced Jana Mohr Lone's resignation from the Board of Trustees.
3. Kristen Smith welcomed new Library Trustee, Will Dailey.
4. The minutes of the May 15, 2025, meeting were amended to reflect the correct year in item #3. The minutes were approved.
5. Kristy Kilfoyle presented the Director's report, adding the following:
  - a. Last evening, June 18, there was a Millay event in the Reading Room. Julia Sagaser moderated a conversation with J. Courtney Sullivan about her recent book *The Cliffs*. There is another Millay event scheduled in July.
  - b. With the receipt of \$100,000 from the Carole Brand estate, CPL is in wonderful financial shape heading into the end of the fiscal year.
  - c. One of the benches has been stolen from the base of the park. It is not known when it was taken. Alison McKellar's drone footage indicates it went missing in October 2024.
  - d. The Executive Committee discussed ways to streamline BOT meetings. Henceforth, Lynne, Russell, and Dave will not attend. Moving to a consent agenda format is another option which may further speed up meetings.
  - e. Jeremy Pratt suggested pursuing with local legislators the enactment of a book banning ban in Maine, noting that a few other states have enacted similar legislation.
  - f. Per Kristen Smith, the next meeting's agenda will include discussion about adding a teen member to the Board. Jeremy Pratt suggested Heather Shanklin as a source for potential members.
6. Liz Senders presented the Treasurer's report, adding the following:
  - a. The Finance Committee met with Allen Agency last week. CPL's portfolio is very strong. Heading into the end of the fiscal year, CPL is in the black and won't need an end of the year fundraising push.
  - b. The Carole Brand Estate grant of \$100,000 includes eligibility for another \$30,000 in each of 2026 and 2027.
  - c. The Brick Garden has two rows of blank bricks (146) that will be sold for \$300 each.
  - d. With money left over from the remote workers grant, CPL will be installing a soundproof pillar for private phone calls. Installation is expected this month.

7. Kristy Kilfoyle reviewed the Parks report.
8. Natalie Travia reported on the Harbor Park Special Committee activities:
  - a. Warrant Article 7 passed.
  - b. The Committee is meeting with Blake Sanborn from Richardson & Associates next week to discuss the Resiliency Plan for Camden Harbor. Allison McKellar and Audra Caler will be invited to the meeting.
  - c. Alison McKellar stated that Camden is creating a committee to work on planning the dam removal and work in Harbor Park. The Special Harbor Park Committee members will be included. There is money left on \$1.6 million grant from the National Coast Resilience Fund which can be used for design costs and Camden has been invited to apply for further grant funding for the construction phase. To take advantage of these grants, CPL will have to abandon pursuit of FEMA funding for resilience work.
9. Larry Ward reported on Book Sale Committee.
  - a. The next Book Sale will be held July 11-13 in conjunction with Harbor Arts. Hours will be 9am-5pm during the sale with a day of set up on July 10. We would like to have Trustee volunteers to help. Look for an email requesting sign-ups.
10. Liz Senders gave the Art in the Stacks report.
  - a. Displays will be set up a month from now for the online auction. Almost all the art is in house. Marketing materials are complete. Millay members have received invitations. Most effort will be when the auction is live during the two-week window, from July 20 – August 3. There will be a reception in the Reading Room on the last afternoon.
11. Kristen Smith reviewed the Development Committee report, noting
  - a. The Development Committee has revised the Board Goal to \$50,000 with expanded criteria; this increased figure includes normal giving which was previously not included. They also discussed implementing better recordkeeping for Board members. Currently, the Board is at 96% participation.
12. Old Business
  - a. Kristy Kilfoyle reviewed the Photo and Video Policies. The Photo Policy is still in development. A new Photo Opt-Out Form is available. The Videography Policy was discussed and will be further refined.
13. New Business
  - a. Natalie Travia reviewed CPL's proposed land acknowledgement. This would be an acknowledgement that CPL is on stolen Wabanaki territory, how that relates to CPL's mission statement and activities, and what commitment CPL will make regarding our actions going forward. A small ad hoc committee will be launched, including Trustees, staff, and maybe an interested patron, to look at what land acknowledgements look like and how best to proceed. We may need to draw in indigenous resources or a consultant. Let Natalie know if you are interested. Alison McKellar offered to suggest some potential participants.
  - b. After discussion, the Board decided not to publish an open letter to the community regarding the June 10 vote.

- c. Kristen Smith opened up a discussion on the Facilities and Grounds committee's structure and the role of the Parks Director. It was decided to keep things as they are at present.
- d. Kristen Smith will send a poll about timing for a possible Board retreat in October 2025.
- e. Kristen Smith suggested that the Board meet in August this year. It was agreed that the meeting will be held August 21, 2025.

14. A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 5:46pm.

15. The Executive Session ended at 6:07pm.

16. The next Camden Public Library Board of Trustees meeting is August 21, 2025, at 4:00pm.

17. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:07pm. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Gromada