**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY REGULAR MEETING**

**Date** : Thursday, January 9, 2025

**Time** : 10:00 A.M.

**Place** : Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Offices

Boston, MA

**Board**

**Present** : Timothy Cherubini, Vice-Chair; Karen Traub, Secretary;

Kate Chang; George Comeau, Esq.; Debby Conrad; Joyce Linehan; Jessica Vilas Novas

**Absent** : Vicky Biancolo, Chair

**Staff Present:**

Maureen Amyot, Director; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Terry D'Angelo, Administrative Assistant / Business Office; Tanesha Deane, Contract Specialist; Allyson Dowds, Consultant to Special Populations; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget / Business Office; Susan Faiella, Accountant; Robert Favini, Head of Library Advisory & Development / Government Liaison; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Cate Merlin, Head of State Programs; June Thammasnong, Communications Specialist

**Staff Zoom:**

Heather Backman, Library Building Specialist; Jessica Branco Colati, Preservation Specialist; Kate Butler, Library Information Systems Specialist; Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Consultant; Al Hayden, Library Advisory Specialist; Jennifer Inglis, State Aid Specialist; Jaccavrie McNeely, Electronic Services Specialist; Aparna Ramachandran, Data Analyst / IT Support Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Courtney Andree, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Sarah Jackson, Boston Public Library; Jacqueline McGuire, Trustee, Bigelow Free Public Library, Clinton

**Observers Zoom:**

James Balliett, Snow Library/Orleans; Leah Brooks, Bigelow Free Public Library / Clinton; Jane Cain, Yarmouth Town Libraries; Jean Canosa Albano, Springfield City Library; Nicole Davignon, Freetown; Ryan Donovan, Southborough Library; Molly Fogarty, Springfield City Library; Cynthia Gemmell, Manchester by the Sea; Aieshya Jackson, Springfield City Library; Dawn Jardine, Great Barrington; Caitlin Kelley, Montague Public Libraries; Mercedes Kiss, Clinton; Pamela Leduc, Town of Wales; Marie Letarte, Clinton/Bigelow Free Public Library; Anna Litten, Robbins Library; Gloria Parkinson, Bigelow Free Public Library-Clinton; Keri Pitcher, Wales Library; Chris Powloka, Uxbridge; Tavi Prugno, Snow Library/Orleans

William Quale, Montague, Chair of Library Trustees; Ellen Rainville, J. V. Fletcher/Westford; Francisco Ramos, Clinton, MA; Aileen Sanchez-Himes, Hudson; Rebecca Sasseville, Northbridge / Whitinsville Social Library; Glen Secor, J.V. Fletcher Library – Westford; Sharon Shaloo, Great Barrington Library Trustees; Mary Siegel, Westford; Richard Simon, Town of Yarmouth, Finance Committee Chair; Sarah Sogigian, MA Library System; Brian Stokes, Falmouth Public Library; Karen Stolfer, Hanson Public Library; Maureen Strauss, Dunstable Free Public Library; Floyd Vaughn

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Cherubini

Vice Chair Cherubini called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

**Roll Call of Commissioners**

Commissioner Traub stated that she is required to take a roll call of Commissioners to comply with the Open Meeting Law for hybrid meetings.

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|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Present Zoom | Commissioner Linehan- Present |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Absent | Commissioner Comeau- Present Zoom | Commissioner Traub- Present |
| Commissioner Chang - Present | Commissioner Conrad- Present | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Present Zoom |

**Review and presentation of petition for a waiver of the municipal appropriation requirement for the FY2025 State Aid to Public Libraries Program above the 5% threshold- Wales**

Cate Merlin, Head of State Programs presented the documents that were submitted by the library and town.

Kara L. Jund, Director and Carolyn Boehne, Library Trustee Chair submitted the following information:

In regards to the Massachusetts State Waiver for Wales Public Library, due to budget issues in the town of Wales, Massachusetts, the Wales Public Library funding for FY2025 was reduced from $58,821 (FY24) to $55,580 (FY25) a difference of $3,241from the previous year. Budget cuts were not exclusive to the library but were made town-wide, which made it impossible for the library budget to be increased by the mandated 2%, required by the state.

Michael J. Valanzola., Chairman Board of Selectmen submitted the following request:

The Library Board of Trustees ("Trustees") has requested this letter in support of their petition for waiver of the FY2025 Municipal Appropriation Requirement ("MAR").

The Board of Selectmen ("Selectmen") and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee ("CTPC") adopted a joint resolution during the FY2025 budget planning process to focus any/all available resources on the consolidation and renovation of our municipal and school facilities as a way to address serious physical, operational and budget challenges now and for the foreseeable future. The first phase of this multiphase plan consisted of moving the municipal library operation into the elementary school building.

The Selectmen requested the assistance of the Trustees and the School Committee in obtaining a clear understanding of the physical. operational and budget impacts to their departments as a result of the proposed consolidation of resources and further requested that they consult their state regulatory agencies for guidance/recommendations and approval, if required.

The FY20251ibrary budget proposal to town meeting was determined based upon the announcement that the long tenured library director would be retiring as of June 30, 2024 and the consolidation of resources as explained above. The physical move and operational details were to be established and implemented during the months of July and August.

At the annual town meeting held in May, the Trustees proposed and town meeting approved an amendment to the library's departmental budget less than the FY2025 MAR but signifying their indifference to pursuing a consolidation of library and school resources. It is unclear to the Selectmen why the Trustees did not sponsor a warrant article requesting additional funds to meet the FY2025 MAR at the October 9, 2024 special town meeting.

Given the Town's limited financial resources and the critical need for continued receipt of State Aid to Public Libraries to supplement the library's annual operating budget, the Selectmen support the Trustees in their petition for waiver of the FY2025 MAR.

Ms. Merlin reminded the Commissioners that they will vote on this waiver request at the February 6, 2025 Board Meeting.

Approval of Minutes from the regular monthly meeting:

January 9, 2025

Vice Chair Cherubini asked if there were any corrections to the January 9, 2025 as presented.

No corrections were needed.

**Commissioner Activities**

Commissioner Traub

* December 2: Presented a program  “Who was Miss Elizabeth Putnam Sohier and why is this room named for her?” for Beverly Public Library's Monday morning series.
* December 3: Mass Library Trustee Association monthly meeting - virtual
* December 5: MBLC monthly meeting -Boston office
* December 10: State Aid Waiver session with Cate Merlin and Commissioners-Virtual
* December 12: Western Mass Library Advocates meeting-Virtual.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Amyot presented the following report:

Communications

During the month of December, the Communications Team has been preparing for the upcoming Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Conference and Tradeshow on January 23-25. The MBLC booth will feature information that is helpful to municipal officials such as the State Aid to Public Libraries program and the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). The team has updated the State Aid Guide for Municipal Officials and the Benefits of State Aid website. The “public officials’ page on the agency website has also been updated with information about all MBLC programs. Materials at the booth lead users to that page. The booth will also have the FY2026 Legislative Agenda with large “How has your library helped you?” cards for conference goers to use.

The FY2026 Legislative Agenda has been updated with the final narrative text from Rob Favini. Jack Martin from the Massachusetts Library System promoted the “How has your library helped you?” part of the campaign at the Massachusetts Conference for Women, and the site has many great stories about the impact libraries have on people’s lives. The FY2026 Legislative Agenda was mailed to all libraries along with a letter from MBLC Chair Vicky Biancolo. The agendas will be at the upcoming Legislative Breakfasts along with large “How has your library helped you?” cards and legislators will be encouraged to share their stories.

The team worked with Tracey Dimant to create a one-sheet that highlights how important federal funding is to the agency. In addition, with help from Lyndsay Forbes the team updated the federal website that highlights LSTA funding by legislative district.

During December, libraries were able to order database bookmarks that support online learning, including language learning, citizenship, career exploration, and legal forms. Over 200 libraries ordered nearly 50,000 bookmarks.

Library Advisory and Development

LSTA Grant Round Update

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) FY26 grant round officially got underway with the submission of Impact and Inspire grant letters of intent on December 6th. Twenty-five letters were submitted totaling $629,000 total in grant funding requests. The next step for libraries who submitted a letter will be the filing of a draft application by February 28, 2025.

The Explore Grant round opened on December 16, 2025. This year the MBLC is offering two Explore Grant options; ESOL/Citizenship Corner or Preservation Assessment grants. The deadline to apply for an Explore Grant is January 16, 2025.

PLA/NCFL Spanish Engagement Grant

The MBLC is helping to coordinate activities under an Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership grant to the Public Library Association and the National Center for Families Learning. Ally Dowds recruited three Massachusetts libraries to participate in the grant that is focused on Authentic Engagement for Spanish Speaking Families. Methuen’s Nevins Library, Plymouth Public Library, and Waltham Public Library are part of a cohort of libraries across the U.S. joining the project for phase 2 that kicked off on December 4, 2024. In the second phase participating libraries will hold a series of Spanish language programs targeting families that will take place in and out of the library.

The ultimate goal of this work is to create a suite of replicable tools that develop the skills, confidence, and abilities of library workers in engaging with Spanish speaking families. MBLC's role will be to disseminate and promote the resources once published.

Perkins MBLC Web Accessibility Training

This year’s MBLC staff Perkins Access web accessibility training wrapped up with a session on December 9, 2024, on Procurement Accessibility. The session reviewed current accessibility regulations and guidelines that are applicable to setting vendor requirements in MBLC’s RFRs. The training series will pick up again in the new year.

State Programs

State Aid  
The State Aid unit has finished all State Aid applications, with the last group being presented to the Commissioners at today's meeting, and the municipalities seeking Waivers to be voted on at the 2/6 meeting. They are moving on to next year's ARIS report, and discussing any additional questions to be added.

State Aid Specialist Jen Inglis will attend the national State Data Coordinators annual training in Lexington, KY in January, held by the IMLS.

Head of State Programs Cate Merlin will begin offering online State Aid Office Hours in January, giving library administrators a venue in which to ask questions about State Aid requirements and get advice from their peers. State Aid Office Hours can be found on the MBLC events calendar, and will be held every other Wednesday, at either 9am or 2pm.

Construction  
The Construction Team has been working on a large Public Records request, preparing materials to guide the evaluation of 2023-2024 grant round awardees’ MPLCP Level of Design documentation, and supporting Small Population Grant recipients Blandford and Otis as they retained their Library Building Consultants and began work on their Building Programs.

Andrea and Heather conducted a one-year post-occupancy visit at the Marlborough Public Library and enjoyed seeing the well-used space, especially the popular community program room, and hearing about how the new building is functioning. The team also visited Shutesbury to see the work in progress on the Small Population Pilot Grant, as well as Framingham to discuss possibilities for creating areas for local history collection use and storage in the main library, related to recommendations the library had obtained as a result of an MBLC Preservation Grant.

Director Activities

This month featured a lot of procurement! I am a Massachusetts Certified Public Procurement Officer, which requires additional continuing education over every three-year certification period. I attended a class on Alternate Procurement Methods that was really interesting and will be doing my recertification class in January. I also worked with the Business Office staff to procure a new (and much smaller) desk for my office, and chairs for spaces throughout the office that will replace our 1980s-era guest chairs that are completely worn out. New items will be arriving in January.

I am happy to announce that we have awarded two new contracts for Strategic Planning and Legal Services. Our Strategic Planning consultant will be Constructive Disruption, the firm that is currently working on the Massachusetts Library System strategic plan. They will be working some of our information-gathering activities into other work they are already doing for MLS, in order to strategically use the library community’s time and effort. We are looking forward to getting started this month. The Legal Services contract went to West Law Group, a law firm that has deep expertise in municipal, construction, and state law. We’ve already had our kickoff meeting with them, and they were already working with us in advance of this board meeting to help us with the effect of the MBTA Communities Act on our Construction Grant awards.

I also spent a significant amount of time working with the Construction team on the Public Records request. In order to obtain some of the historic records that were requested, Andrea and I had to take a short training with the Executive Office of Technology Safety and Security. We were then given access to Everlaw, an online system EOTSS uses just for requests like this. We were able to determine which records were responsive, compile them, and provide them electronically to the requestor. It was an incredibly time-consuming process, and we now understand the mechanics of a large public records request if we ever receive another one.

COSLA has kicked off the planning process for the Voices for Libraries event in Washington, DC. It is a two-day advocacy event in March – one day of training on advocacy and messaging, and one day of visiting federal officials on Capitol Hill. Each state has a “captain” to lead the effort (ours is Rob Favini). We had a preliminary call with Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee leadership to start talking about which legislators we should focus on and which librarians from those districts would be good speakers for the event. More information will be coming on that event as it gets closer.

**Legislative Report**

Rob Favini, Head of State Programs presented the following report:

COSLA Voices for Libraries

The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) will be holding *Voices for Libraries 2025* March 5th and 6th, 2025. This event invites small teams of librarians from every state to travel to Washington, DC to participate in advocacy training and talk with legislators about the importance of libraries and to advocate for support.

Rob Favini will be serving as Massachusetts “State Captain” and will be coordinating attendees, requesting and confirming meetings with their elected representatives, and reporting out on the meetings.

*Voices for Libraries 2025* will focus on advancing:

* Federal Funding for Libraries
* Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA)
* Support for Literacy
* Broadband as a Human Right

Maureen Amyot and Rob Favini met with members of the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative committee on January 3rd to discuss the event, identify librarian participants, and get input regarding which elected representatives would be most productive to meet with. Due to the importance of funding and digital connectivity the plan is to schedule meetings with Congressman Richard Neal, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, and Senator Ed Markey.

MLA Legislative Committee Update

On December 20, 2024, the MLA Legislative Committee Update send an update to the library community that featured the following updates:

MLA has found sponsors to file E Book legislation in the new legislative session. Rep. Brian Murray and Senator Paul Feeney have each agreed to file the bill using the language that came out of the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development in [H.4802](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H4802). To recap bill prohibits contracts that restricts a library from disclosing any terms of its license agreements or requires the library to violate the confidentiality of a patron’s library records. It also sets up a commission to assess and address challenges facing public libraries and digital resource collections.

Through their partnership with [EveryLibrary](https://www.everylibrary.org/), the MLA Legislative Committee met with a political consultant about regrouping on the Freedom to Read legislation. The consultant is reaching out to legislators about next steps for refiling legislation with language that closely mirrors [S.2839](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S2839) that came out of the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

Welcome New Legislators

January 2025 ushered in the first session of the 194th Massachusetts General Court. This year the legislature welcomes the following new members who were sworn in on January 1st.

Senate

Kelly Dooner (R), Taunton  
William Driscoll (D), Milton  
Dylan Fernandes (D), Falmouth

House

Michelle Badger (D), Plymouth  
Leigh Davis (D), Great Barrington (succeeds Smitty Pignatelli)  
Dennis Gallagher (D), Bridgewater  
John Gaskey (R), Carver  
Homar Gomez (D), Easthampton  
Tara Hong (D), Lowell  
Hadley Luddy (D), Orleans  
Thomas Moakley (D), Falmouth  
Bridget Plouffe (D), Brockton  
Amy Sangiolo (D), Newton  
Greg Schwartz (D), Newton (succeeds Ruth Balser)  
Ken Sweezey (R), Pembroke  
Mark Sylvia (D), Fairhaven  
Josh Tarsky (D), Needham  
Justin Thurber (R), Somerset  
Richard Wells (D), Milton

Upcoming Legislative Breakfasts

MBLC Staff and Commissioners are looking forward to participating the following Legislative breakfasts scheduled for January 2025:

* Friday, January 10th at the Nahman-Watson Library, Greenfield Community College
* Friday, January 17th at the Leicester Public Library
* Friday, January 24th at the Chicopee Public Library
* Friday, January 31st at the Taconic High School Library, Pittsfield

DOR December 2024 Revenue

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) announced that preliminary revenue collections for December totaled $4.345 billion, $573 million or 15.2% more than actual collections in December 2023, and $267 million or 6.5% above benchmark.

FY2025 year-to-date collections totaled approximately $19.260 billion, which is $1.394 billion or 7.8% more than actual collections in the same period of FY2024, and $159 million or 0.8% above the year-to-date benchmark.

**Consideration of approval of municipalities meeting the requirements for the FY2025 State Aid to Public Libraries based on eligibility established in FY2025 for the Municipal Appropriation Requirement and in FY2024 for the minimum standards**

Cate Merlin, Head of State Programs and Jen Inglis, State Aid Specialist, presented for certification 49 municipalities meeting the requirements for the FY2025 State Aid to Public Libraries program.

Ms. Merlin reminded the Commissioners that these awards are half payments. The remainder is paid at the end of the grant cycle. The total first half payments for the first group of municipalities is $1,667,085.26.

Commissioner Conrad moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners certifies that the communities on the attached list have met minimum standards of free public library service and awards each a FY2025 Library Incentive Grant (LIG), a FY2025 Municipal Equalization Grant (MEG)and a FY2025 Nonresident Circulation (NRC) offset in the indicated amounts, totaling $1,667,085.26, and authorizes any additional FY2025 State Aid to Public Libraries disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle.

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|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Absent | Commissioner Comeau- Yes- | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Chang - Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

The motion passes.

**Review of municipalities requesting waivers for the FY2025 municipal appropriation requirement in the FY2025 State Aid to Public Libraries Program within the 5% threshold**

Cate Merlin, Head of State Programs presented the 7 libraries that were petitioning the Board for a Waiver of the MAR that were below the five percent threshold set by the Board at the January Board Meeting for not being disproportionately cut in relationship to other departments within their municipality.

The 7 municipalities are Dunstable, Florida, Hancock, Hanover, Salisbury, Tyringham, and Westford.

Board will vote on waivers at the February 6, 2024 meeting.

**Consideration of approval for the 2023-2024 Planning and Design Grant Round**

**Planning and Design, 2023-2024 Grant Round, Standard Grant Type, Small Tier**

Project Type Summary: A Project for Planning and Design, which does not involve actual construction, proposes to develop a building program, perform a condition assessment, if necessary, conduct site investigations, prepare schematic drawings and estimate costs for a future major public library facility improvement project.

Commissioner Conrad moved and Commissioner Traub seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves planning and design grant awards totaling a maximum of $500,000 to five (5) library projects in the amounts listed below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Municipality | Library | Maximum Award | Construction Status |
| Springfield | East Springfield Branch | $100,000 | Immediately Funded |
| Freetown | Freetown Public Libraries | $100,000 | Immediately Funded |
| Great Barrington | Ramsdell Library | $100,000 | Waitlisted |
| Falmouth | East Falmouth Branch | $100,000 | Waitlisted |
| Berkley | Berkley Public Library | $100,000 | Waitlisted |

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|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo – Absent | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Chang - Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

The motion passes.

**Planning and Design, 2023-2024 Grant Round, Standard Grant Type, Medium Tier**

Project Type Summary: A Project for Planning and Design, which does not involve actual construction, proposes to develop a building program, perform a condition assessment, if necessary, conduct site investigations, prepare schematic drawings and estimate costs for a future major public library facility improvement project.

Commissioner Traub moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves planning and design grant awards totaling a maximum of $700,000 to seven (7) library projects in the amounts listed below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Municipality | Library | Maximum Award | Construction Status |
| Hanson | Hanson Public library | $100,000 | Immediately Funded |
| Yarmouth | Yarmouth Town Libraries | $100,000 | Immediately Funded |
| Montague | Carnegie Library | $100,000 | Immediately Funded |
| Clinton | Bigelow Free Library | $100,000 | Immediately Funded |
| Northbridge | Whitinsville Social Library | $100,000 | Waitlisted |
| Hudson | Hudson Public Library | $100,000 | Waitlisted |
| Uxbridge | Uxbridge Free Public Library | $100,000 | Waitlisted |

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|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo – Absent | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Chang - Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

The motion passes.

**Planning and Design, 2023-2024 Grant Round, Standard Grant Type, Large Tier**

Project Type Summary: A Project for Planning and Design, which does not involve actual construction, proposes to develop a building program, perform a condition assessment, if necessary, conduct site investigations, prepare schematic drawings and estimate costs for a future major public library facility improvement project.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Chang seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves a planning and design grant award totaling a maximum of $100,000 to one (1) library project in the amount listed below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Municipality | Library | Maximum Award | Construction Status |
| Waltham | Waltham Public Library | $100,000 | Immediately Funded |

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|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo – Absent | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Chang - Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

The motion passes.

**Report from Massachusetts Library System**

Strategic Initiative 1

MLS ensures its services are sustainable, prioritize member needs, and equitably serve all member types.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | Monthly work towards goal |
| MLS ensures service value to all member types. | MLS will create new avenues for active member engagement, including task forces, class leaders, and project engagements. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of active member engagements.* | Changes made by the new School Library Membership Policy are being implemented.  Sarah Sogigian and Rob Favini (MBLC) launched their 2023 Road Trip program  Two Masscat public library members (Huntington and Becket) have signed contracts to join C/WMARS, with support from MLS. |
| MLS will continue to strengthen its partnerships and collaborations to allow MLS to focus on what it does uniquely well. | Utilizing the newly created partnership policy and process, MLS will explore possible partnership work with the Library for the Commonwealth and other organizations. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the value of their partnerships.* | We launched the five-part webinar series with ALA on intellectual freedom topics. Three webinars occurred in February with 176 participants at the live events and 94 views of the recordings. Two additional webinars will occur in March. Recordings of the webinars will be available for 18 months.  We continued working with MBLC and other organizations to host a webinar series on mental health supports and libraries. One webinar occurred in February and two will occur in March.  Staff from MLS, MBLC, public libraries, and other New England state libraries began the *Touchpoints for Libraries* train- the-trainer program to teach the Touchpoints program to Massachusetts library staff. The training will continue in March.  We continued working with other New England states on this year’s Summer Summit, to help libraries prepare for the youth and adult summer library program. The event is scheduled for March 31. |
| New services will be designed to deliver the greatest statewide impact, able to expand and contract due to available funding and need. | MLS will evaluate current, new, and proposed services using a new internal service review process. | *MLS will ensure that services are able to expand and contract due to available funding, need, and capacity.* |  |

Strategic Initiative 2

MLS empowers leaders to emerge at every level of library service, connecting staff throughout the stages of their careers.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | Monthly work towards goal |
| MLS promotes excellence and continuity by providing professional development, conversation, and community around leadership. | Together with our partners, MLS will lead the planning of learning opportunities on leadership and management topics and ensure networking options in our engagements. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the leadership and management learning opportunities hosted and the reflection from participants.* | We scheduled a series of four workshops with the Employers Association of the NorthEast on HR topics relevant for libraries (employment Law, interviewing, performance management, and documentation skills). They will take place March through May.  We are working with EANE to schedule four community chats on HR related topics. |
| Leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities will have flexible offerings in order to include participants from various library types, library sizes, and resources. | MLS will explore the creation of grants and/or scholarship opportunities to support member library staff in their professional development work. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of opportunities available, awarded, and the reflection from participants.* | We launched the Language Learning Grant program and approved 20 applications in February. |

Strategic Initiative 3

MLS will take the lead in facilitating important conversations, and support member-facing initiatives focused on DEI: diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and social justice.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | Monthly work towards goal |
| MLS will integrate the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and social justice into its policies, practices, procedures, and programs. | Utilizing learnings from our work last year, MLS will continue its review of documents, resources and practices to ensure they align with core values.  In partnership with trusted experts, MLS will begin an accessibility audit of MLS services. | *MLS will demonstrate both increased resource allocation as well as substantive, visible progress in representation throughout MLS services.* |  |
| Following the lead of trusted experts, MLS will build awareness in using the DEI tenets with member library staff to identify and eliminate barriers to inclusive library services. | Utilizing established services, MLS will showcase member libraries that are using the core values of DEI within their communities. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the DEI learning opportunities hosted and the reflection from participants.* |  |

**Report from Library for the Commonwealth**

Sarah Jackson presented the following report:

BPL 2024 Wrapped:

In 2024, the BPL lent a combined 6.6 million physical and digital items, welcomed more than 2.3 million people to its locations throughout Boston’s neighborhoods, signed up 148,149 new library cardholders, and placed 636,951 holds. Meanwhile, more than 8 thousand young adults across the U.S. signed up for a [Books Unbanned](https://www.bpl.org/books-unbanned/) card, resulting in over 14 thousand checkouts of frequently challenged eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Find more of our [2024 Wrap Up Here](https://www.bpl.org/news/boston-public-library-wraps-up-2024/).

Update from Special Collections:

In 2024 Special Collections:

* Acquired 1627 rare, valuable or unique items to add to our collections
* Cataloged 26,000 volumes to make them more accessible to the public
* Welcomed 9162 in-person visitors, including 2584 attendees to a public program offered by special collections staff

Special Collections held a New Year's Eve open house for more than 400 attendees. Staff showed a wide variety of items from 1825 and 1925 to celebrate the start of 2025. The event took place in the historic Wiggin Gallery, a room that's in a section of the McKim building that's awaiting renovation. It was the first time collection materials were available in that room since 2018

Update from Digital Services:

A total of 258,440 items were added to Digital Commonwealth in 2024, including 127,057 newspaper issues, 83,181 photographs, 11,280 letters, 4,595 drawings, 2,913 postcards, 1,837 audio recordings, and 1,112 maps

Hosted collections added:

* Boston Public Library - [Boston Daily Traveller](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A9g554p629&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343897948290%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Buzi0gDtSY761183vOn3xJ1gYJyPR4p0Z0tZeJPmwvA%3D&reserved=0) (888 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1889-1892)
* Boston Public Library - [Boston Evening Traveller](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ajm21bt145&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343897975638%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aod2lF1UXShLvJrqsgBBRCLcibzDWxUYQaqvJF3bcd0%3D&reserved=0) (1,383 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1885-1889)
* Boston Public Library - [Boston Public Library Community Scanning Days](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ag158jj76k&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343897993610%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uvHep660PiAhblohbl8%2F0lX0VslxnVfo9UfFvo0Sws8%3D&reserved=0) (3 items; materials contributed by patrons via BPL's Mobile Memory Lab initiative)
* Boston Public Library - [The Boston Traveler](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Azc780x32d&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898014197%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GPMQ960S1zUrqnMWZ1g%2FjDbLHJbiPHznhT3CaDNvoEA%3D&reserved=0) (612 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1910-1912)
* Boston Public Library - [Boston Traveler and Evening Herald](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Af4758m73r&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898032105%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=siuW001oVEWj12JuoM3cDbPNeKWzi%2BVo%2BimuG4t79WE%3D&reserved=0) (230 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1912-1913)
* Boston Public Library - [Clinton Daily Item](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ajm21bd39j&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898051117%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PU3oRUnb69t2B0gIy5l7kM79YpQ%2B4hUVc47yesXgLXM%3D&reserved=0) (3,118 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1961-1971)
* Boston Public Library - [Daily Evening Traveller](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A93071206q&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898303169%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E2pmCQkdCVYdXUkKyMUyqpYfsCzBnSqL3h7pHyFXs7s%3D&reserved=0) (3,270 items; issues of the daily Boston newspaper from 1845-1885)
* Boston Public Library - [Hingham Journal](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A7940g043g&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898327015%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7mlxIk0BIV4UTjYhg6%2FcMie5LdHrdz92hgq1P2xQjhg%3D&reserved=0) (1,669 items items; issues of the weekly newspaper from 1888-1921)
* Boston Public Library - [The Lynn Bee](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ad217xs28q&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898346809%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ePtSkVH7hm4UoyRfxtNpRfdMXQFiNE7ktoqPJ1dokT4%3D&reserved=0) (1,755 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1881-1887)
* Boston Public Library - [Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcollections.leventhalmap.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A41688024w&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898366547%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QwyE290khclsXD2Mpqq1NMZYxTx5QrCzC7wg43PF2eE%3D&reserved=0) (140 items; miscellaneous U.S. and international maps from the 1700s to the 1990s)
* Boston Public Library - [Quincy Evening News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A4f16k267p&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898385667%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9UQvC2AzgIGoJKjbTOUxlEdR5W0LtMZ%2BovaCO7l4NoI%3D&reserved=0) (1,254 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1933-1937)
* Boston Public Library - [Serge Koussevitzky Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Ahq380t345&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898403128%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=F0PH3xArq5eMLxTtClCjPFZQjDsbH3l80SGuihjDEs4%3D&reserved=0) (1 item; score for Prokofiev's 5th symphony annotated by the former conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra)
* Boston Public Library - [The Taunton Evening News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3Afb49bb580&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898420373%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q8zzPma96m2zk3AwI1PvXdKdxI5cd1qJXuN6i84MnHU%3D&reserved=0) (1,146 items; issues of the daily newspaper from 1897-1901)
* Boston Public Library - [The Town Crier](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A2f75zb04c&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898438160%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uCkPnrbbEndG6JPVVlrWd8%2FOfXrJtP69Fkka4JsqMqQ%3D&reserved=0) (1,682 items; issues of the weekly Newton newspaper from 1898-1936)
* Falmouth Public Library - [Falmouth Public Library Historical Postcard Collection](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcommonwealth.org%2Fcollections%2Fcommonwealth%3A1257c7549&data=05%7C02%7Csjackson%40bpl.org%7C412bcbb6a42e49c2492408dd2b4fca45%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C638714343898454951%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fSNOO9aFoG1M3D02PS%2F%2Fjf3FdjRihi5c4b671DHYPAs%3D&reserved=0) (337 items; postcards depicting Falmouth locations from the early to mid-20th century)

Harvested collections added:

*No harvests in December*

Stats:

Item views: 162,191

Total item-level records: 1,350,974

Total hosted items: 667,878

**Presentation and discussion of the FY2026 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Massachusetts Center for the Book and Monthly Report**

Courtney Andree, Executive Director presented the following quarterly report. The board will vote on the Plan of Service and Budget at the February 6, 2025 meeting.

QUARTERLY REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR THE BOOK

January 2025

This fall, Mass Center for the Book’s Board of Directors reviewed proposals for fundraising consultant services and made the decision to work with Financial Development Agency to develop a long-range development plan, case for giving, and toolkit for the Center. After the plan is ratified (likely in Spring 2025), we plan to continue to work with FDA. With a very small staff and limited time to devote to fundraising activities, MCB will require assistance as we build fundraising capacity and relationships with funders. Financial Development Agency will engage in grantwriting work on our behalf and help us pursue corporate sponsorships for our programs and signature events. We understand that successful fundraising programs are not built overnight—this work is a long-term investment in MCB’s future. Under the Center’s new strategic plan, a key goal is growing fundraising capacity and building a development program so the organization can have more revenue streams and greater financial stability. While it would be wonderful to have development staff on payroll at the Center in the future, right now we are interested in exploring potential revenue opportunities and determining what mix of activities (whether grantwriting, appeals to individual donors, corporate sponsorships, fundraising events, etc.) will have the greatest return on investment.

Evaluating Mass Book Trails

We are developing processes and structures for program evaluation and spent the past few months examining our Mass Book Trails initiative. In late November, we distributed a community survey—asking users to take a dive into the current Mass Book Trails site, provide us with recommendations on how to improve the user experience, and detail any features they’d like to see added. We publicized the survey widely through the Allregions list, our e- newsletter and social media channels, through the Massachusetts History Alliance listserv, and through the Library of Congress Center for the Book listserv.

The response was unexpected, with 350 individuals taking the time to complete the survey, with strong representation from the library, education, and publishing communities. All in all, we were impressed by the outpouring of support for this project. While many of the respondents hadn’t encountered Mass Book Trails before and highlighted some issues with the current site, the user experience, and mode of presentation, there was general consensus that this initiative has potential and that literary heritage work like this has real value. Most respondents felt that Mass Book Trails could do a better job of equipping them for real-world travel (not just armchair travel), indicating that they would like to see more engagement with historic sites, bookstores, existing literary walks, and libraries. As far as other possible features are concerned, 82% of respondents expressed interest in walking tours of neighborhoods, 77% in a statewide interactive map, 74% in a directory of literary sites and museums (presenting practical information), and 55% in a timeline of key events in Massachusetts literary and print history. There was also a widespread desire for printable and downloadable maps to further enable real world exploration. These results have given us food for thought as we consider the best path forward for this initiative. It is clear that there is interest in a revamped and expanded Mass Book Trails website and we have identified a promising open-source mapping platform. Next, we will need to investigate potential sources of grant funding to enable this work.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

Planning for MCB’s 25th anniversary year is underway. Starting on January 1, the Center will launch its Anniversary Bingo initiative, which encourages engagement with MCB programs, with literary sites and landmarks around the state, with libraries, bookstores, book festivals, author events, and more. If participants collect and log five experiences in a row, they will receive a special MCB anniversary tote. If they complete all twenty-five prompts on the bingo card, they will be entered to win a bookish getaway to the Berkshires—complete with visits to author house museums like Edith Wharton’s The Mount and Herman Melville’s Arrowhead. Join in the fun at [www.massbook.org/bingo!](http://www.massbook.org/bingo!)

Massachusetts Book Awards

The roll out of the Mass Book Awards Speakers Bureau is underway, with thirteen events already scheduled (the first is a January 7 virtual event in partnership with the Tewksbury Public Library, featuring Larry Rohter). Event partners include Rockport Public Library, Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell, Chelmsford Public Library, Easthampton Public Library, Forbes Library in Northampton, Peabody Institute Library, the Vineyard Haven Public Library, Palmer Public Library, Peabody Institute Library of Danvers, Watertown Public Library, UMass Translation Center, and Hull Public Library.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and we hope to schedule a few additional events for the spring and summer months.

Upcoming Events/Activities

January

Speakers Bureau Event: “Mass Book Award Honoree Larry Rohter: Into the Amazon Book Talk,” Tewksbury Public Library (virtual), January 7 at 7pm.

February

Speakers Bureau Event: “Nina MacLaughlin in conversation with John R. Nelson: A Special

Winter Solstice Event,” Rockport Public Library, February 1 at 11am.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Mass Book Award Honoree Susan Edwards Richmond: Night Owl Night Storytime,” Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, February 22 at 2pm.Speakers Bureau Event: “Mass Book Award Winner Crystal Maldonado: The Fall of Whit Rivera

Author Visit,” Pollard Memorial Library (Lowell), February 27 at 6pm.

March

Speakers Bureau Event: “Mass Book Award Honoree River Adams: The Light of Seven Days

Reading,” Chelmsford Public Library, March 12 at 6pm.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Mass Book Award Honoree Emily Habeck: Shark Heart Reading,” Peabody Institute Library of Danvers, March 25, at 7pm.

May

Mass Kids Lit Fest, various locations across Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties, May 5-11, 2025.

Letters About Literature Recognition Ceremony, Massachusetts State House, May 20 at 1pm.

**Unfinished Business and General Orders**

Director Amyot read a letter by Kim Charlson, Executive Director Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library regarding Parental &amp; Institutional Acknowledgement for Talking Book Program Users Under 18 Years of Age.

Per a policy change from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), as of October 1, 2024 the Perkins Library has been managing the process of obtaining parental acknowledgements for registered borrowers in Massachusetts under the age of eighteen.

The Perkins Library has sent out one email to all patron accounts for juvenile borrowers with email addresses providing them with an online acknowledgement form to which they could respond. We deleted lapsed email addresses from accounts following that mailing, and then NLS sent out an email message as well. Perkins also sent two physical mailings with a hard copy form enclosed for parents or guardians to mail back in the pre-addressed envelope provided. The first mailing was sent to patron accounts that did not have an email address and the second mailing was sent to all accounts that had not yet responded

As of January 1, 2025, we have had the following response:

Perkins Library:

Parental Acknowledgements have been received for 24% of users under 18 years of age.

Out of a total of 553 active accounts for individuals under 18 years of age, there are 131 accounts for which we have received parental acknowledgements, and 422 accounts remaining that have not responded.

Worcester Talking Book Library:

Parental Acknowledgements have been received for 35% of their users under 18 years of age.

Out of a total of 89 active accounts for individuals under 18 years of age, there are 31 accounts for which parental acknowledgements have been received, and there are 58 accounts remaining that have not responded.

Currently, NLS has offered cooperating network libraries an extension beyond January 1, 2025 to enable libraries to complete the acknowledgment gathering process. At this point, I requested a 90-day extension for Massachusetts for continuing to obtain additional acknowledgements from parents and/or guardians of juvenile patrons. In the interim, NLS has indicated that libraries are not required to remove access to any library services or NLS materials. At this point, Perkins and Worcester are continuing to obtain parental acknowledgements for new patrons, and for existing borrowers when calls are received for materials or services. Approximately 100 current Perkins' patrons and 10 Worcester patrons will turn 18 years of age by the end of 2025. This represents another 24% of Perkins juvenile borrowers, and 15% of Worcester patrons under 18 years of age.

Our current approach is to continue to whittle away at obtaining more parental acknowledgements for existing borrowers, and to keep working on our process for acquiring acknowledgements through the new patron application process for this population. We are not planning any type of discontinuation of services for any accounts that have not yet put a parental acknowledgement on file. We will continue to monitor NLS announcements for more information on this policy implementation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions that you may have about this policy process from NLS.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.



Karen Traub

Secretary