

**NORTH OF BOSTON LIBRARY EXCHANGE INC
MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE
OCTOBER 16, 2025 MINUTES**

Present: Members attended by authorized voting representatives (**Attachment A**).

1. Call To Order

President Catherine McDonald at 10:13.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Anna Sarneso moved to approve the September 18, 2025 Minutes, Linda Gardener second. Jenny Benedict abstained. Motion approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Kathy Lussier reported in Myron Schirer-Suter's absence. FY26 audit is underway.

4. Manager's Report

Kathy Lussier

- **Gordon Conwell** - Withdrew moving forward with a NOBLE Membership.
- **Baker & Taylor** - In light of Baker & Taylor going out of business, Kathy reached out to EBSCO regarding our content cafe to see if they plan to partner with another group. As well as reaching out to other vendors.
- **Executive Board** - Submitted public comment on The New England Council of Higher Education has released a draft of its new accreditation standards for academic institutions. This draft has removed any mention of the word libraries or librarians from it.
- **ECDI** - Hired part time program director, starts 10/20/25. The previous program director is still under contract through the end of October, so she'll start the training. This group has not been doing much development because they need to do strategic planning.
- **Salesforce** - Meeting with the consultant to begin the Salesforce project.
- **MBLC Grants** - The resource sharing grant is \$210,990. Expect to get a little more towards the end of the fiscal year, because this grant also helps reimburse for our e-card. Telecom \$40,865, network infrastructure grant is \$27,107, LEA grant \$50,935.

Martha Driscoll

- **Aspen Update** - Some of the colleges that cut over in August helped identify some issues that we were able to resolve. On September 15th and 29th the rest of the member libraries were cutover, except Salem State. Aspen has an eCard signup form, but are continuing to use the Evergreen form until we get the language picker to work correctly in Aspen
- **eRenew** - Testing Equinox's eCard and eRenew code. Working with developers at Equinox and Quipu to get the code working on a test system.

Elizabeth Thomsen

- **Aspen Update** - All libraries are live as of September 30, 2025, with the exception of Salem State, who's deferring until January. Gave an update on the functionality.
- **Training** - Reviewed training that is scheduled from October-December.

5. Vote to Approve FY2027 Budget, OverDrive and PC Support Assessments

Kathy Lussier gave a recap on the budget which was presented at the September meeting. Jenny Benedict expressed concerns of not having a level funded budget and she is expected to present a level funded budget for FY27. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Abby Porter moved to approve the FY27 Budget, OverDrive and PC Support Assessments, Anna Sarneso second. Motion carries by majority vote. See roll call vote, **Attachment B**.

6. Vote to Approve FY2027 Action Plan

Kathy Lussier presented and reviewed the FY2027 Action Plan. See **Attachment C**.

Motion: Linda Gardener moved to approve the FY2027 Action Plan, Allison Babin second. Jenny Benedict opposed. Motion carries by majority vote.

7. Update on NOBLE Filtering Pilot

- Kathy Lussier gave an update on SafeDNS. Three libraries participated in the pilot from the beginning: Beverly, Swampscott, and Winthrop, with Melrose recently joining.
- Beverly director Allison Babin reported they installed SafeDNS on their staff and public computers. Staff experienced about eight serious issues of sites being blocked that shouldn't be blocked, or images or videos not displaying. Because of those issues they terminated participation in the filter pilot.
- Kathy added that the other libraries will install SafeDNS on their staff computers and continue to test. Other libraries have had good experience working with their firewall vendor. We will discuss with our network monitoring vendor trying it at the NOBLE office. This is a work in progress and determined we aren't ready to do E-rate this year.

8. Quarterly FY26 Action Plan Review

Kathy Lussier reported on the goals for the 1st quarter FY26 Action Plan.

9. New Business

None

10. Adjournment

Brian Courtemanche moved to adjourn, 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Babin
Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

NOBLE Members Meeting Attendance
Thursday October 16, 2025 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Videoconference

#	Name	Library
1	Allison Babin	Beverly Public Library
2	Anna Sarneso	Bunker Hill Community College
3	Brian Courtemanche	Endicott College - Diane M. Halle Library
4	Jenny Benedict	Gloucester - Sawyer Free Library
5	Abby Porter	Lynnfield Public Library
6	Jane Wolff	Marblehead - Abbot Public Library
7	Linda Gardener	Melrose Public Library
8	Sara Heng	Merrimack College - McQuade Library
9	Kathy Lussier	NOBLE Staff
10	Elizabeth Thomsen	NOBLE Staff
11	Paula Cartolaro	NOBLE Staff
12	Martha Driscoll	NOBLE Staff
13	Morgan Yeo	Peabody Institute Library - Peabody
14	Tara Mansfield	Salem Public Library
15	Elizabeth McKeigue	Salem State University
16	Alan Thibeault	Saugus Public Library
17	Catherine McDonald	Wakefield - Beebe Memorial Library

ATTACHMENT B
 NOBLE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION MEETING - 10/16/2025
 ROLL CALL VOTE
 FY2027 OPERATING BUDGET, OVERDRIVE, AND PC SUPPORT ASSESSMENTS

MEMBER LIBRARY	VOTING REPRESENTATIVE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
Beverly -	Allison Babin	X			
	Meghan Karasin (A)				
Bunker Hill -	Anna Sarneso	X			
	Stephen Lajoie (A)				
Danvers -	Noelle Boc				X
	Jennifer McGeorge (A)				
Endicott -	Brian Courtemanche	X			
	Bridget Cunio (A)				
	Laurie Souza (A)				
	Melissa Natale (A)				
Everett -	Kevin Sheehan				X
	Trisha Hernandez (A)				
Gloucester -	Jenny Benedict		X		
	Lisa Ryan (A)				
Gordon -	Myron Schirer-Suter				X
	Naomi McDermott (A)				
Lynn -	Theresa Hurley				X
	Paula Joyal (A)				
Lynnfield -	Abby Porter	X			
	Patricia Kelly (A)				
Marblehead -	Kimberly Grad				
	Jane Wolff (A)	X			
Melrose -	Linda C.W. Gardener	X			
	Diane Wall (A)				
Merrimack -	Lyena Chavez				
	Sara Heng (A)	X			
Peabody -	Morgan Yeo	X			
	Jennifer Usovicz (A)				
Phillips -	Camille Torres Hoven				X
	Emily Goss (A)				
Reading -	Amy Lannon				X
	Michelle Filleul (A)				
	Jamie Penney (A)				
Revere -	Diana Luongo				X
	Rhea Heaven (A)				
Salem -	Tara Mansfield	X			
	Jim Riordan (A)				
Salem State -	Elizabeth McKeigue	X			
	Thomas Neenan (A)				
	Jeremy Mele (A)				
Saugus -	Alan Thibeault	X			
	Lisa LeJeune (A)				
Stoneham -	Rachel Overbeck				X
	Lily Mysona (A)				
Swampscott -	Jonathan Nichols				X
	Susan Conner (A)				
Wakefield -	Catherine McDonald	X			
	Meaghan Kinton (A)				
Winthrop -	Greg McClay				X
TOTAL COUNTS		12	1	0	
*A = Alternate					

ATTACHMENT C

**NOBLE: NORTH OF BOSTON
LIBRARY EXCHANGE**

ACTION PLAN

FY27





MISSION STATEMENT

**Empowering libraries
through
collaboration & innovation.**

Support

Collaborate

Innovate

Empower



PRIORITY 1

Fine-tune core services to member libraries, leveraging the power of the collective.

GOAL 1

Continue to improve the utility, functionality and security of Evergreen and adjacent systems as the cornerstone core service.

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve public access to NOBLE libraries' materials through continued enhancement of the Aspen discovery service.

Action	End Date	Team
Identify top development needs to improve Aspen discovery service for NOBLE patrons.	August 31	Member Services with ERDWG
Contract with developers to code NOBLE improvements to Aspen	December 31	Administration and Member Services
Roll out improvements to Aspen	June 30	Member Services

OBJECTIVE 2: Proceed with implementation of standard reporting tool to generate statistics for the statistics dashboard.

Action	End Date	Team
Following up on FY26 work to identify and test a new tool to generate statistics for the statistics dashboard, migrate data into the chosen tool for querying circulation statistics.	September 30	Systems

OBJECTIVE 3: Conduct a cybersecurity session for NOBLE library staff to ensure security of central systems and local data.

Action	End Date	Team
Conduct a cybersecurity session for NOBLE library staff to ensure security of central systems and local data.	May 31	Systems

OBJECTIVE 4: Conduct an analysis of options available for ebooks / digital audiobooks to determine if the network can adopt a service in addition to or in place of vendor-neutral service to augment our OverDrive service.

Action	End Date	Team
Identify potential options available to provide ebook / digital audiobooks to NOBLE member libraries.	September 30	Member Services
Explore functionality of available options to include vendor demos.	December 31	Member Services with ERDWG
Provide a Recommendation to Membership.	March 31	Member Services with ERDWG

GOAL 2

Expand group purchasing opportunities.

Action	End Date	Team
Develop a process for identifying products and services where there is interest for collaborative purchasing.	September 30	Administration
Implement at least one new group purchase for NOBLE libraries based on the above process	December 31	Administration
Plan NOBLE vendor showcase to highlight products / services that may be of interest to libraries.	March 31	Member Services

GOAL 3

Build on a tradition of excellence in training member library staff by designing training opportunities in collaboration with both internal member library partners and external partners, such as the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) and the Massachusetts Library System (MLS).

Action	End Date	Team
Develop at least one new joint training program with staff from MLS.	May 31	Member Services

GOAL 4

Enhance NOBLE's catalog of training experiences by recommending training tracks that support different types of staff roles common to member libraries.

Action	End Date	Team
Identify tracks of NOBLE workshops for different levels of circulation staff in NOBLE libraries, including those workshops that will be required in order to be given specific circulation permission levels.	October 31	Member Services
Adopt policy to tie workshop requirements to circulation permissions.	December 31	Administration with Executive Board
Offer circulation classes that make up this track.	June 30	Member Services

PRIORITY 2

Deepen NOBLE's connection with its membership community, and the membership community's connections among each other.

GOAL 1

NOBLE will use meetings, sessions or trainings as opportunities to build relationships, connecting NOBLE staff with member staffs and member staff with one another.

Action	End Date	Team
Investigate and recommend a new event management system to make it easier for library staff to find and register for NOBLE meetings, sessions and training.	August 31	Member Services

GOAL 2

Introduce new ways for NOBLE staff and member library staff to connect with one another to forge meaningful, authentic relationships.

No actions to support this goal for FY27.

GOAL 3

Expand communication across the membership by building upon NOBLE's success in communicating to member libraries.

Action	End Date	Team
Implement a mechanism for NOBLE libraries to share their news.	December 31	Administration

GOAL 4

Research and explore the viability and capacity to strengthen the collective by expanding NOBLE membership, focusing on academic libraries.

Action	End Date	Team
Following up on FY27 goal to conduct an analysis of services and resources to augment the service NOBLE is providing to current academic library members, implement at least one recommendation from the analysis	March 15	NOBLE Management Team



PRIORITY 3

Expand the scope and scale of NOBLE-led marketing efforts in coordination with allied agencies, such as the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) and the Massachusetts Library System (MLS).

GOAL 1

Build connections with affiliated groups as a step toward developing a marketing strategy (e.g., MLS, MBLC).

No actions to support this goal for FY27.

GOAL 2

Create capacity for developing and implementing marketing efforts.

No actions to support this goal for FY27.

GOAL 3

Develop a model for an annual comprehensive marketing plan that will be implemented.

Action	End Date	Team
Develop the network's first annual marketing plan for promoting NOBLE-wide services	March 31	Administration and Member Services with Marketing Working Group



PRIORITY 4

Support diversity and inclusion in services & collections.

GOAL 1

Conduct diversity audits of physical and electronic collections.

Action	End Date	Team
Identify collection analysis needs for NOBLE members.	December 31	Administration and Member Services with Collection Management Team
Identify a tool to assist NOBLE libraries in performing a collection analysis.	June 30	Administration and Member Services with Collection Management Team

GOAL 2

Enhance language access in services and collections.

Action	End Date	Team
Investigate options for improving cataloging of multi-lingual materials.	December 31	Member Services

GOAL 3

No actions to support this goal for FY27.