

**NORTH OF BOSTON LIBRARY EXCHANGE INC
MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE
JANUARY 22, 2026 MINUTES**

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

1. **Call To Order** - President Catherine McDonald at 10:02.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Anna Sarneso moved to approve the October 16, 2025 Minutes, Brian Courtemance second. Motion carried.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Myron Schirer-Suter reported the audit is complete, the tax returns were filed.

4. **Manager's Report**

Kathy Lussier

- **Member Services Support Associate Position** - Gabe Jayroe resigned on 1/1/2026 as Member Services Support Associate. The position was posted with a due date of February 6th. Twenty-four applications were received.
- **Audit** - NOBLE's audit is complete, the Executive Board accepted the financial statements. This was the first audit with a full year of financial activity from the Evergreen Collaborative Development Initiative, which NOBLE is the fiscal sponsor. The financial statements show a decrease in net assets for the organization, but that decrease is mostly attributed to the spending down of ECDI funds. A Financial Statements folder was created in the NOBLE Directors Shared Google Drive where directors can view the FY25 statements.
- **NOBLE Reserves / Contingency Planning** - Reviewing the reserve funds with the Executive Board. The goal is to define the purpose of each of our reserve funds and set a target level. The Board will be looking at a contingency plan for the NOBLE budget. More information will be presented at the March Members meeting.
- **Content Cafe** - The book jacket cover images from Content Cafe, a Baker & Taylor service, is still working despite Baker & Taylor's shutdown. Electronic Resources & Database Working Group voted to replace this service with Loral, a new service developed by Grove. Grove is founded by the original Aspen developer, Mark Noble, and Jordan Fields, a former Bywater employee. NOBLE will initially save \$8,000.
- **Circulation Testing** - Evergreen community is planning to roll out release 4.0 next fall. Expected to include a rewrite of the circulation interface. The interface will be tested, six library staff volunteered to assist with the testing. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled.
- **Massachusetts Data Privacy Act** - Massachusetts Senate passed a Data Privacy Act, the House is now considering a similar act. Because the act could affect the library networks and member libraries, the nine network administrators pooled funds to hire an attorney to review the act and its implications for libraries. The attorney's review found that, due to our unique nature where 501(c)(3) organizations are storing data for public and academic libraries, entities exempt from the act, it is unclear whether the networks will need to adhere to its requirements. As a result, we are working with MLA's Legislative Committee to introduce language to clearly exempt libraries and library networks from the law.
- **Marketing Working Group** - The Marketing Working Group has been focusing on creating an Aspen toolkit for NOBLE libraries.
- **Legislative Breakfast** - The Northeastern Massachusetts Library Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, February 27th, at the Melrose Public Library.

- **New Evergreen Network in Massachusetts** - Old Colony Library Network is moving to Evergreen and Aspen this spring. NOBLE and CW MARS have offered advisory assistance with their migration.
- **Fine Free Network** - As of November, all NOBLE public library members are fine free for overdue books. The Marketing Working Group is working on a small promotion on NOBLE becoming a fine free network.

Elizabeth Thomsen

- **Aspen Update** -
 - Salem State is now live.
 - More work needed on the best way to handle course reserves.
 - Working on adding more permissions and training for staff to maintain their own calendars, manage navigation links, and local banners. Will add placard permission.
- **Training** - January-June list of training has been posted on the Staff Information System.
- **Collection Management Working Group** - Focus groups are meeting to discuss how the network can best support library collections.
- **Backstage Library Works** – Elizabeth and Chris will be meeting with Backstage to go over the details and move the project forward.
- **ECDI Development Prioritization Process** – Enhancements include angularizing the circulation interface, workflow, UX and accessibility issues, new features, and bugs. Prioritizing and voting on enhancements will be in March.
- **MBLC's Public Relations Advisory Committee** – Looking at the legislative agenda and working on a campaign to promote the Library of Things collections in libraries.

Martha Driscoll

- **eRenew** - Code for eRenew was recently committed to the main Evergreen repository for release 3.16. The code will be loaded in production soon. After the code is in place we will roll out eRenewal and provide information to libraries.
- **SalesForce** - NOBLE has been working with a consultant to build out SalesForce to organize information about our member libraries including products and services cooperatively purchased, products purchased independently that integrate with Evergreen, hardware assets, and staff contacts. NOBLE has a free non-profit license for SalesForce. A ticketing system is the next phase.

5. **Vote to Approve Nahant Public Library's Membership Application**

Catherine McDonald - MLS had been encouraging and incentivizing small libraries to join a network. Nahant has made a formal application to join NOBLE at the associate member level in accordance with fees that were outlined in a proposal that we made on August 22nd.

Motion: Anna Sarneso moved to accept Nahant Public Library as an associate member, Linda Gardener second. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Discussion with MLA Paralibrarian Section**

Gerry Deyermond from Memorial Hall Library Andover and chair of the Career Development Committee Paralibrarian section, Desiree Zitko and Valerie Gold-Highhouse from Reading gave a presentation of the certification program to recognize paralibrarians.

7. **Vote to Approve Payment Procedures and Sanctions for Non-payment Proposed Revisions**

Kathy Lussier

This arose from discussions last spring when NOBLE's FY26 Member Services Agreement was revised with data privacy sections. While reviewing, Allison Babin stated Beverly's city solicitor expressed concerns with the 1.5% monthly late fee, stating it was a policy they could

not adhere to being a municipality. Kathy checked with Paula, even when payments were late, the 1.5% late fee was never imposed. It is proposed to remove that statement. See **Attachment B** for proposed revisions.

Motion: Allison Babin made a motion to approve the proposed revisions as presented. Rachel Overbeck second. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Vote to adopt the Homosaurus and Backstage's Indigenous Peoples thesaurus in the NOBLE bibliographic database

Kathy Lussier

- This is a recommendation from ERDWG, and went to the Board for recommendation.
- Backstage Library Works project - deduplication of the database and then run authority control against the database. Part of the project have the option to adopt different thesauri in our database. Traditionally NOBLE has done Library of Congress subject headings.

Elizabeth Thomsen

- The thesauri recommended, Homosaurus, is open source subject control, used in a lot of libraries, and has LGBTQIA headings, an improvement from the Library of Congress.
- The other one, the Indigenous Peoples, The Library of Congress has been working on using better, subject headings in that area.
- These are two evolving professional standards in these subject headings.

Motion: Abby Porter moved to adopt Homosaurus and Backstage's Indigenous Peoples thesaurus in the NOBLE bibliographic database, Linda Gardener second. Motion carries by majority, one opposed.

9. Ad Hoc Committee to Assess Services for Academic Libraries

Kathy Lussier - Gave overview of the committee:

- Created from a FY26-30 Strategic Plan goal to research and explore the collective by expanding NOBLE membership, focusing on academic libraries.
- Committee should consist of a minimum of four participants from academic libraries.
- Perform an environmental scan of consortia supporting academic libraries to identify potential services.
- Conduct interviews with consortia to find out what is working and what isn't.
- Solicit feedback from NOBLE academic member libraries on services.
- Recommend consortial services, with potential funding mechanisms, to make NOBLE membership more valuable for current and future academic library members.

10. Quarterly FY26 Action Plan Review

Kathy Lussier reported on the quarterly goals for FY26 Action Plan.

11. New Business

None

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Babin
Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

NOBLE Members Meeting Attendance
Thursday January 22, 2026 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

#	Name	Library
1	Allison Babin	Beverly Public Library
2	Brian Courtemanche	Endicott College - Diane M. Halle Library
3	Myron Schirer-Suter	Gordon College - Jenks Library
4	Abby Porter	Lynnfield Public Library
5	Kimberly Grad	Marblehead - Abbot Public Library
6	Linda Gardener	Melrose Public Library
7	Lyena Chavez	Merrimack College - McQuade Library
8	Kathy Lussier	NOBLE Staff
9	Paula Cartolaro	NOBLE Staff
10	Martha Driscoll	NOBLE Staff
11	Elizabeth Thomsen	NOBLE Staff
12	Desiree Zicko	Reading Public Library
13	Gerry Deyermond	Reading Public Library
14	Tara Mansfield	Salem Public Library
15	Alan Thibeault	Saugus Public Library
16	Rachel Overbeck	Stoneham Public Library
17	Jonathan Nichols	Swampscott Public Library
18	Catherine McDonald	Wakefield - Beebe Memorial Library
19	Gregory McClay	Winthrop Public Library and Museum

ATTACHMENT B

Payment Procedures and Sanctions for Non-payment Draft Revisions - November 2025

The Treasurer is the official contact for all correspondence regarding invoices and payments and will be responsible for providing member libraries with needed information or documents promptly.

Invoices will be issued by the Treasurer or designee six times per year covering two months each: on August 1st for July-August period, October 1st for September-October, December 1st for November-December, February 1st for January-February, April 1st for March-April, June 1st for May-June; or annually on August 1st if requested ~~by the library~~
~~library~~. Invoices shall carry the notation "Net 30".

Libraries wishing so may request and receive advance billing. If prompt payment is not received on advance billing, invoices will also be issued according to the above schedule, with normal payment expectations.

If no payment is received by NOBLE by 30 days after the end of a billed period, a notice will be issued by the NOBLE Treasurer that in 30 days service will be suspended unless payment is received. Notice shall be sent to the library director, the chief executive officer of the municipality or institution, and to the chief financial officer of the municipality or institution, via certified mail with return receipt. ~~The Executive Board will be notified by the Treasurer or designee of any such notices sent simultaneously. Interest of 1.5% per month as of 30 days after the billing date will accrue if a bill is not paid by 30 days after the end of a billing period.~~

If no payment is received by 75 days after the end of a billed period, after a warning has been issued as above, service will be suspended by NOBLE until payment is made.

Suspension of service means that all services provided by NOBLE, including, but not limited to, ~~on-line system access, gateway services, electronic mail, printed reports and consulting/troubleshooting,~~ will not be provided until full payment, or other arrangements acceptable to ~~the~~ Executive Board, have been made. When service has been discontinued, NOBLE has full rights to service and/or remove telecommunications equipment and other equipment belonging to NOBLE during normal library business hours, said access to apply to NOBLE staff, telecommunications vendors contracted by NOBLE and representatives of Comcast and/or other data line suppliers. If a library has no regular business hours, provisions

will be made by the library or its governing authority for NOBLE access at a mutually agreeable time.

When service is suspended, a charge will be made to restore service. The restoration charge will be ten percent of the library's annual NOBLE charges if service has been suspended for six months or less when payment is received, and twenty percent of the library's annual charges if greater than six months. Normal NOBLE fees do not accrue during a period of suspension.

Approved by the Members: October 19, 2017