Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library
Corporate Communications Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 9:00 AM

As the recent amendments to the open meeting law allows, this Committee will continue to hold meetings remotely. Adequate alternative access to the meeting is provided through the zoom link below.

Via Zoom only: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86018488672
To join by phone: 646-931-3860

Attendance: Fran Aliberte (Chair), Christine Araujo, Jason Brisbois, Cheryl Marks, Dawn Sarrouf, Library Director Jenny Benedict, and guests Geoff Bradford (joined at 9:15, left at 9:57), and Julia Brotherton

Not Present: n/a

1. Call to order

2. Welcome + Introductions

3. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2026. The minutes were approved as presented.

4. Library Programming Update - Jenny
    a. Jenny shared an update on recent programs including a local history story-sharing, film screenings, Teen Room art project unveiling, Countdown to Kindergarten, 5th grade visits, and more.
    b. Upcoming (just some of the programs and events):
        i. Adult: Sound Artist in Residency kick off on September 24, followed with weekly workshops and a demonstration on October 29; Second Tech on the Horizon program with Chris Spittle from Cape Ann Weather on October 15; Tech Expo: a day of digital discovery; Partnership with Manship: Two film screenings about David Hockney.
        ii. Local History: Rockaway Hotel on October 16th, local author talks.
        iii. Children: Backyard Growers weekly Harvest Storytime; Babies, Books, and Bubbles; Board Game Bonanza;
        iv. Teens: Dungeons and Dragons; Ghost Paintings; Painting Journals.

5. Lyceum Press Release
    a. AI Panel: *Promise and Peril: A Conversation*
        i. Jon Keller will moderate. The three panelists are: Roopika Risam, Nir Eisikovits, Hilary Robinson.
            1. The working group is arranging contracts.
        ii. Christine Armstrong is working with Julia on marketing.
        iii. The event will be held at City Hall. Studio 1623 will film it.
        iv. They've applied for a grant from Inst. for Savings to cover expenses.
    b. The Committee reviewed the press release. Julia will incorporate suggestions.

6. Art Auction Update - Fran/Geoff
    a. Both the live and the silent auction will happen on the main floor.
    b. We have enough sponsors to cover most of the costs.
    c. Christine Armstrong is looking for greeters and runners to help at the auction.

7. Annual Meeting - Fran
    a. Date: TBD. The date per the bylaws would fall on Veteran's Day. The Board will vote on an alternate date.
    b. Theme: Freedom to Know: Libraries, Intellectual Freedom, and the Future of an Informed Community.
    c. Speaker: Do we want to have a speaker?
    d. Annual Report: This will include an update from the FY2026 audit. Christine Armstrong will create a schedule for when items are due for inclusion in the report.
    e. Corporators: New Corporators will be voted in.

8. Development Committee - Geoff
    a. We would like to create a group of volunteers to support Christine Armstrong in her work - thank yous, etc.
    b. There was discussion on ideal make-up of the group.
    c. Timing: Be ready to launch this at the Annual Meeting.
    d. We are interested in hiring a part-time grant writer to help with applications to family foundations.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday October 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

10. 10:00 Adjourn. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Bowen

Motions Summary
n/a

Actions Summary
n/a