

EXETER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2025

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Jenny Medlock

Roll Call: Kathy Corson, Jenny Medlock (Vice Chair/Acting Chair), Davis Moore, Lisa Wilson, Sherry Kostenbader, Sarah James (Secretary), Hope Godino, Kathy Boudreau, Barbara Young (Treasurer)

Absent: Linda Tober

2. Correspondence: None

3. Special New Business: Jenny proposed that we discuss hiring Julia Lanter to be the new director of the library. Hope presented the town personnel policy, which encourages employee growth and development by promoting from within and does not list any requirement to consider outside candidates. We reviewed Julia's resume and discussed her many years of exemplary service to the library. Barbara made a motion to offer the position to Julia and Sherry seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. We invited Julia into the meeting and reviewed the proposal. She accepted and signed a letter of acceptance. She then joined the rest of the meeting.

4. Minutes from Previous Meeting: Kathy C motioned to accept the minutes from the November 26, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting. Kathy B seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved with the only change being the addition of the meeting date. Julia will add the date and change the minutes status from draft to final.

5. Reports:

A) Director's Report:

The library is very busy with programs for patrons of all ages. Hope called attention to several upcoming special programs:

- February 15, 10am to 1pm film and program on pollinator pathways and planting pollinator plants co-sponsored by the Exeter area Garden Club
- February 25 presentation on Introduction to US Taxes by Seacoast Families First.
- Beginning February 7 one on one tax preparation help from 10am to 4pm provided by AARP. Help is by appointment and can be scheduled by calling 211.

B) Operating Budget: The updated budget was reviewed.

C) Building, Grounds and Technology: No new issues. The toilets have been working well lately, so the previously anticipated repair of the main drainage pipe is not urgent. Consultation with a plumbing engineer is planned in the spring.

D) Finance and Fundraising: So far over 80 people have contributed to the annual appeal. Barbara did not have a record of the total amount donated. Barbara has written thank you / donation acknowledgements to all donors.

E) Long Range Plan: Hope has been collecting information about which questions to put on the community survey prior to proceeding with the long range plan. Several trustees have given her feedback on survey questions and others were provided with blank surveys which they can use to give feedback. The new director will start working on the next steps of the long range plan in March.

F) Personnel and Policy: For informational purposes Barbara reviewed the public library ethics statement provided by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

G) Friends of the Library: The Friends group continues to be active planning activities to support the library. They are eager to help the trustees as needed.

H) Social: We started planning an event to celebrate Hope's years of service.

6. Continuing Business: None

7. New Business:

A) Kathy C announced she has stepped down as chair of the board. Jenny will act as chair until after the next election, then the newly formed board will choose a slate of officers. Barbara is running for re-election. Kathy C and Linda are not running for re-election. Hope has heard from several people who will be running for the open positions.

B) The New Hampshire Library Trustees Association has announced their annual meeting. All trustees, including any new trustees elected in March, are encouraged to attend.

C) The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25th at 6:00 pm in the library Children's Room.

8. Closed Session, if necessary (RSA 91-A:3 Executive Sessions): None required

9. Public Comment: None

10. Adjourn: Motion was made by Barbara to adjourn, seconded by Lisa. Adjournment passed unanimously at 6:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah James
Secretary

