

Draft

MINUTES

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

June 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM

In Attendance: Martha Walsh (presiding), Barbara Young, Carol Eberhardt, Susan Barnes, Mary DeFilippo, Hilary Ireland, Sarah James, Evelyn Kelso, Julia Lanter, Susan Feltus

Welcome to new Friends members Susan Barnes and Mary DeFilippo. We are happy to meet you.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 19, 2026, meeting was approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report

The report was reviewed by attendees and will be filed in Google Docs.

Program Updates

Cribbage had 9 participants on June 4.

Old Business

- Otto Pizza Fundraiser was held on May 18th - Proceeds have not yet been received.
- 2026 NHLTA Spring Conference & Annual Meeting on May 27, 2026, was attended by Trustees Sarah James and Susan Feltus and by Friend Martha Walsh. Martha reported the conference was worthwhile. She attended NH Laws Regarding Libraries. In the future Julia will share the advance speaker/session list for Friends to view.
- Street Restaurant, Exeter, Fundraiser on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 earned \$336.58. Handouts were given to attendees to ensure funds from their dining checks were targeted for the Friends.

New Business

- A new FOEPL Promo Flyer designed by Andrea was distributed. Any changes or additions should be given to Martha.
- July 2 Fundraiser, "Community Day" at Water Street Books. We can shop early in store or online and have books held for July 2 pick-ups so FOEPL gets % of sale. Share the news with everyone you know. Posters will be printed and displayed to promote the event.
- Replacement hoses were purchased for the Friends to use in the Library gardens at the cost of \$99.98. Doreen Carson will be reimbursed for the purchase.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Summer Reading Kick-Off – 1:00 PM Founders Park/Library– Wednesday, July 1, 2026 – need a few Friends to help with games (corn hole, tic-tac-toe, axe throwing! etc.), Give-away Table, raffle. Please wear red, white and blue.
- 1776 Movie (3 hours long) and sing-a-long – at the Library – Wednesday, July 8 – arrive 5:15 for 5:30 movie start. At least 4 Friends are needed to help at food tables at the 4 movie sites in the library (distribute popcorn, packaged snacks and water). Movie will be shown in children's room, teen room, main level and mezzanine.
- Exeter Independence Festival – Saturday, July 11, 2026 – FOEPL table with information and craft activity. Many more attendees are expected at the Festival this 250th Anniversary Year. Fun from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Martha will follow with a separate email for volunteer sign-up. Please sign up if you can spend some time helping children with the festive headband/crown craft.
- FYI - More Independence Festival Fun to enjoy. At 5:00 PM folks are invited to picnic at Swasey Park and enjoy a concert and fireworks. Bring your own food or visit local Exeter restaurants for take-out. Stillwell's and Lexie's will have food trucks there.

Fundraising Events

- Next OTTO fundraiser for the Friends is on Monday, **December 7**, 2026.
- Susan Feltus completed the online application for potential fundraising at Exeter Kitchen and Tap. Sea Dog has been unresponsive to her inquiries.
- Julia reported the idea that patrons who are at least 73 years of age and receive mandatory yearly minimum distributions may want to designate those funds to be deposited directly to the FOEPL bank account. As contributions the patrons avoid tax.

Library Requests – Julia

- Payment for the teacher of the Adult Water Color Class on July 29 - \$100.
- Children's Room Window Garden expense - \$205 for growing pod. ALA grant provided the training. The fence is being donated by a local carpenter. Astroturf will be used. Approximately \$500 per month is being spent on vegetables for the children's room animal friends. The goal is to grow many of those vegetables as well as provide sustainability programs for children.
- A motion was made to approve expenditure of the two above amounts and was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- *68 Hours of Hunger* Donation Boxes are coming soon to the library. (They may be there already.) The purpose is to help address food insecurity, particularly for weekends when pantries may be closed. A list of preferred foods will be provided.

Small package items such as pull-tab tuna, chicken, and crackers can be brought in the meantime. The idea is that the food can be discretely taken from the bins near the doors and eaten without the need for additional ingredients, which may not be available in the home.

***Expect an email from Martha with the list and also snack items that can be donated to the teen room.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Exeter Public Library (FOEPL) is Tuesday, **July 21, 2026.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.