

FINAL

MINUTES

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

May 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM

In Attendance: Martha Walsh (presiding), Susan Feltus, Barbara Young, Carol Eberhardt, Julia Lanter, Jan O'Brien

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 17, 2026, meeting was approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report as of April 2026

Receipts: \$289.00

Current bank balance: \$6,110.85

Current Edward Jones investment account: \$38,283.09

Expenses included:

- payment issued for NH Irish Harp Orchestra \$300.00
- FOEPL Annual Report Filing w/State of NH \$ 75.00
- Linda George – Stationary Supplies \$ 33.39

Total Bank Balance: \$44,393.94

Program Updates

Cribbage had 11 participants on May 9th

Old Business

- Email access to the "Friends" Gmail account has been documented.
- Andrea has organized the "Friends" binder with tabs and each page in a protective sleeve. (Note from Carol: It's a work of art.) Our Google Drive documents are being organized as well.
- Spring Craft Fair Raffle proceeds: \$284.00
- OTTO Pizza, Exeter Fundraiser was held May 18, 2026. Proceeds will be reported when they arrive.

Volunteer Opportunities and Fundraising Events

- 2026 NHLTA Spring Conference & Annual Meeting, May 27, 2026, at the Doubletree Hotel, Manchester, NH. EPL Trustees Sarah James and Susan Feltus will attend as will FOEPL President Martha Walsh.
- Street Restaurant, Exeter – Tuesday, June 2 – A hand-out for diners to present to their server for FOEPL fundraiser is being produced. It will indicate that the FOEPL should receive the percentage benefit of the sales that day. Volunteers will cover hourly shifts to greet diners and give them the hand-out. Julia and the EPL staff will produce 9 posters to advertise the fundraiser. Martha will send an email requesting volunteer coverage.
- NH Charitable Foundation Annual Meeting will be held the evening of Thursday, June 11 at the Manchester Doubletree Hotel.

Volunteer sign-up for the following activities will take place at the June FOEPL meeting.

- Summer Reading Kick-Off - Founders Park/Library- Wednesday, July 1 – help with games
- Community Day at Water Street Books – Thursday, July 2, 2026 – Fundraiser for FOEPL – Posters – Encourage friends and family to shop – “Christmas in July” – earn % of sales.
- 1776 Movie –at the Library – Wednesday, July 8 – evening event
- Exeter Independence Festival – Saturday, July 11, 2026 – FOEPL table with information and craft activity. Need to check current craft supplies and likely purchase more. Many more attendees are expected at the Festival this 250th Anniversary Year.

New Business

- Susan Feltus will inquire about possible fundraising opportunities at Vida Cantina in Portsmouth.
- Other potential sites to contact were Exeter Brewing Co and the other establishments of the owners.
- We welcome four new members to the FOEPL membership and email lists: Susan Barnes, Courtney Skerritt, Faith Jordan and Bhawana Shukla.
- A suggestion was made to create an information sheet that explains the activities and goals of the Friends of the Exeter Public Library and make visible the services that the Exeter Public Library offers.
- A check (\$45.00) to the EPL is needed for printing services that were provided.
- Thank you notes to be written to The Community Oven for hosting our raffle and fundraiser on April 27, 2026, and to three River Woods residents for their monetary donations.
- The Library is maintaining an Amazon Wish List for requests from the FOEPL. Library staff member Loren requested supplies on the list for an upcoming Adult Water Color Class. The \$151.48 cost was approved and Martha will order the supplies from the list to be sent to the Library.
- One hundred dollars (\$100) was approved to be deposited with the EPL for prepayment in a Friends printing account. Julia will notify Martha when the balance is low.
- Important Information from Julia
 - Donations made from the Friends to the EPL must now indicate specifically that the donation is to be in the control of the Library Board of Trustees. Without such an indicator the donation goes as “unanticipated funds” to the control of the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Julia and Martha will meet to produce the exact wording to accompany donations from the Friends.
 - Currently the Town of Exeter controls any grant monies the Library receives. An EPL account at Citizens Bank would allow the Library direct access to the grant funds awarded to the Library. Julia requested \$500.00 seed money from the Friends to create an EPL account at Citizens Bank, since funds in the Library budget are not permitted to be used for this purpose. Martha moved to donate \$500.00 from the Friends’ funds toward creation of an EPL account at Citizens Bank, Jan seconded the motion and it was approved by the members present.
 - A request for funds to sponsor a Sustainability display and activity at the Library was tabled till a future meeting.

Library Requests – Julia

Children's 2026 Summer Reading Programs

- Silver Circus- \$200 by May 22 to reserve the date
\$450 on August 5 the performance day
- Miss Juliann Show - \$390 for performance on July 8 – interactive with guitar and song
- Wildlife Encounters - \$627.80 for performance and mileage on July 29

Teen 2026 Summer Reading

- The number of teen attendees has increased significantly. Food insecurity may be a contributing factor.
- FOEPL will donate \$250 for purchase of additional snacks by library staff (under control of Exeter Public Library).
- After the new procedure for dropping off in-kind donations such as the snacks for the teen room is defined, Martha will send an email request for members to donate snack items
 - Need NON-NUT and GLUTEN-FREE food donations from the Friends – Snacks can be left at the main floor desk
 - Individually wrapped, e.g. goldfish, popcorn – (healthy is best)

Adult 2026 Summer Reading Programs

- Culturally Curious – An art talk with scholar Jane Oneail – August 4. Cost is \$200 after a discount of \$150 from the NH Humanity Council
- Ballroom Dancing with Arthur Murray – July 22 – \$75.

For next month's agenda:

- Committee to look into Bingo Parlors for fundraising
- Sign-up sheets to volunteer for July/August Library activities

Reminder:

Next meeting is **Tuesday June 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 PM