

MEETING MINUTES
Exeter Public Library
Board of Trustees
October 22, 2024
6:00 PM

1. **Call to order** 6:00PM in Library's Children's Room Craft Room

Roll Call: Kathy Corson (Chair), Jennifer Medlock (Vice Chair), Sarah Zachos James (Secretary), Barbara Young (Treasurer), Lisa Childs-Wilson, Hope Godino (Library Director)

* Katherine A. Boudreau arrived at 6:08

Absent: Linda Tober, Sherry Kostenbader, Davis Moore

Approval of Minutes: No changes. Jennifer Medlock made motion to accept. Lisa Childs-Wilson 2nded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Reports**

- a. **Director's Report-** Hope Godino. Adult Services: Ghost Hunter visited the library, Woodwind Trio Concert, Adult Book Groups will read *Good Morning Monster* and *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* in November and in October both groups selected their books. Starting in September the Library has visited Langdon Place, Riverwoods & 277 Water St. Community campuses to discuss BARD. BARD stands for Braille and Audio Reading Download program which is absolutely free from the National Library and provides free eBooks and audiobooks as well as an audio player device or digital access at no cost to the user. In September staff introduced the program at each site and helped individuals sign up for the program. In October patrons were trained on how to use the online digital search website. In November patrons who have received their devices will receive one on one training. Programs introducing BARD to Exeter residents will occur through the winter months. The Library will host a BARD info session series that has a program offered in the morning, afternoon and in the evening in November 7th at 2 PM and November 13th at 10:30 AM and December 12th at 6 PM. Plans are in motion to also discuss BARD with local housing sites like the Exeter Mill and Sterling Hill.
- b. **Operating statement-** Hope Godino. 83% of budget spent to finances on track for end of year. A lot more damaged books required replacing this year. Lots of food damage and damage that make the book unreadable. Sarah James also inquired about Sunday openings and Hope stated that with the passing of the new budget there would be an ability to explore being opened 1-5. Sarah James recommended opening one Sunday a month to start. Hope Godino stated that to get community members to notice the opening would need to be consistent. Kathy Corson reached out the Town Manager and Chair of the Select Board in regards to the Library's wall replacement. The Library will cover the cost. Kathy Corson in a memo to the Chair of the Select Board sent an open invitation to the select board to come to a Library Trustee meeting at any time. Kathy

Corson also reached out to Peter Lennon who is the head of the Town's Trust Committee and the town manager and head of the select board on the topic of the language of a proposed warrant article for a non-capital building reserve fund. Peter Lennon had very helpful feedback that made Hope and Kathy recommend to the board that the warrant article be placed on hold this year until a building site assessment could be conducted. Jenny Medlock made a motion to recind the September motion for a non-capital reserve fund. Lisa Childs-Wilson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

c. **Building, Grounds, Technology**- Hope Godino. They are working on the sidewalk on String Bridge street. (Wall update already covered in Operating Statement Report by Kathy above)

d. **Finance and Fundraising** -Kathy Corson. Board reviewed new annual appeal and agreed on Buck\$ for Book\$ as its title. Sarah James recommending publicizing with posters around town.

e. **Long Range Plan** – Kathy Corson. Kathy recommended waiting to begin Long Range Plan until after the Library conducted a Facility Audit. Husband Robert Corson who is on the facilities committee will come to the meeting to discuss it. The recommendation was agreed on by all trustees.

f. **Personnel and Policy**- Barbara Young. Nothing to discuss

g. **Friends**- Jennifer Medlock. The Friends Invitational event was a great success and a second event is already planned. The Friends will help with another raffle at the next Library Craft Fair in December. Ottos pizza fundraiser Monday October 21st all day. Friends will not meet in December.

h. **Social** – Lisa Childs-Wilson. Hopes to have a January event at the Library with warming soups.

5. **Continuing Business** – Kathy Corson. Nothing to report

6. **Committees** Kathy Corson. Nothing to report.

7. **Closed Session** - No closed session

8. **Public Comment** - Carol Eberhart, 3 Lexington Avenue – Carol praised the wonderfully run Friends Group event run by the Friends Group. She also recommended a survey be conducted. Hope and Kathy Corson will look into a survey with the help of the Rockingham Planning Commission which the town buys into for help with survey tools.

9. **Adjourn** – Jennifer Medlock moved to adjourn at 6:53 PM Lisa Childs-Wilson 2nded. All in favor

Next meeting November 26th @ 6 PM