

DRAFT

MINUTES

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

July 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM

In Attendance: Martha Walsh (presiding), Julia Lanter, Carol Eberhardt, Lorraine Jurdi, Susan Feltus, Linda George, Hilary Ireland, Evelyn Kelso, Andrea Renz, Mary DeFilippo, Sarah James

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 16, 2026, meeting were amended to correct the payment for the art teacher. The funds were approved at a prior meeting.

Treasurer's Reports

- The June 2026 report was shared and approved
- The Receipts and Expenses Report January-June 20, 2026 was shared, discussed and approved.
- The proceeds from our last OTTO fundraiser was \$437.
- A private donation of \$200.00 was received.

Program Updates

No cribbage was held in July

Old Business

- Independence Festival
 - It was estimated that the Festival had approximately 5,000 attendees.
 - The Friends of the Exeter Library children's stars headband craft was well received.
 - Many parents attending requested Sunday open hours for the Library. The long range plan and the input of the trustees and the Library budget must be considered.
- Library Events held on July 1 and July 8 were reviewed.
- The Water Street Book fundraiser was held on July 2. Funds raised will be reported once they are deposited.

New Business

- Our next **OTTO** Pizza fundraiser will be held on **Monday, December 7, 2026**. Members who choose to will meet for pizza dinner at 5:30.
- The Friends participation in the 2027 Independence Festival will be determined if volunteers for set-up, take-down, and time slots have committed to roles in May of 2027. It is stressful to find participants at the last minute.
- Thank you notes to be sent to Otto, Street and Water Street Bookstore for supporting the Friends with proceeds from their sales. Notes are also sent to persons who make donations to the Friends.

- A check request to reimburse for the purchase of craft supplies for the Independence Festival was approved.
- An idea was presented that the Friends annually send a letter to the editors of local papers naming and thanking the businesses that have supported the Friends through fundraisers. It can be an opportunity to remind the businesses and the readers how the proceeds are put to use to benefit the Exeter Public Library and its patrons.

Library Requests and News - Julia

- A Library Lock-in - A new teen library event is planned to take place Friday, August 28, 2026.
 - The Lock-in will begin at 4:00 PM, end at 10:00 PM, and will include loads of fun activities, games and food.
 - Registration will be required and 15 teens from ages 11 to 18 years will be able to attend. Parents and attendees must sign a rules agreement.
 - Teens will bring a sleeping bag and pillow and can wear pajamas, if they choose.
 - A quiet room will be available to the teens as well.
- "Have Fun!" is Julia's suggestion to the Friends members. Because much of our time is spent fundraising and helping at Library events, Julia encourages the Friends to take opportunities for fun together beyond the library. A discussion of potential activities included:
 - East Kingston used book facility
 - A sculpture park in Kensington

Reminder:

Next meeting is **Tuesday August 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 PM