

EXETER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
11/26/2024

1. Call to Order: Call to order at 6:00 pm in the library children's craft room

Roll Call: Jennifer Medlock (Vice Chair), Davis Moore, Sherry Kostenbader, Sarah James (Secretary), Hope Godino (Library Director), Kathy Boudreau, Barbara Young (Treasurer)

Absent: Kathy Corson (Chair), Lisa Childs-Wilson, Linda Tober

2. Correspondence: Hope presented a letter received from Michael York, the State Librarian of the New Hampshire State Library. The letter praised the Exeter Public Library Staff for their hard work implementing the new library card system and generally praised their commitment, dedication and leadership. Hope had already shared the letter with the staff.

3. Minutes from Previous Meeting: Kathy Boudreau motioned to accept the minutes from the October 22, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting without changes. Barbara Young seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Reports:

A) Director's Report: The library continues to be very busy with many programs and events that are detailed on the library calendar. Recent highlights include the increasingly popular Korean lessons and the youth Dungeons and Dragons program which has added a fourth group. Children's room programs scheduled for school vacation week include LEGO free build, drop-in gaming and a family movie drop in on December 26.

On Tuesday, December 3, local resident Robert Azzi will present "Ask a Muslim Anything", which has been a very popular program in the past.

On Thursday, December 12, the staff will present an information session about the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) program, which provides free eBooks, audiobooks and an audio player device or digital access to anyone who has difficulty reading books due to physical or learning disabilities. This is a federally funded program that does not require library membership or Exeter residency.

All library programs are always free and open to the public.

B) Operating Budget: The updated budget was reviewed. Hope noted that the new furnace is working efficiently, resulting in a reduction in energy costs.

C) Building, Grounds and Technology: Hope continues to explore options for repair of the sewer pipe and bathroom issue. No work is scheduled pending a decision on the repair option.

D) Finance and Fundraising: So far 26 donations have been received in response to the new annual appeal. We discussed strategies to better communicate the structure of the appeal, including adding information to the signage and having more information appear when the QR code is scanned. Kathy Boudreau recently attended an information session presented by the State of New Hampshire on how QR codes can be hacked and will share this information with Hope.

E) Long Range Plan: In preparation for the long range plan Hope plans a community survey to determine priorities and set goals. She has been researching how best to structure the survey, with an emphasis on clarity, ease of completion and privacy. Hope passed out 6 different sample surveys and encouraged all trustees to review them and provide feedback to her at or prior to our next meeting. She will also be soliciting opinions from the staff.

F) Personnel and Policy: No issues to discuss.

G) Friends of the Library: The Friends group is energetic and has been busy with programs, fundraising activities and general library support. They continue to provide leadership on the very popular countywide gathering of library friends groups. The Friends plan to sponsor a children's entertainment program in the next few months, probably during February school vacation. Martha Walsh will be stepping down as president in March and a new president will be needed.

H) Social: No activities planned.

5. Continuing Business: None

6. New Business:

A) Hope submitted a letter informing the Board of her Resignation, effective February 28, 2025. The Board accepted the letter and expressed great appreciation to Hope for her many years of service. Hope will investigate the process for hiring a new director and will provide the Board with information. Jennifer Medlock will contact Lisa Childs-Wilson, chair of the social committee, about planning a community event to recognize Hope.

B) The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the library children's craft room.

7. Closed Session (RSA 91-A:3 Executive Sessions): A closed session was held, minutes recorded separately

8. Public Comment: Carol Eberhart, 3 Lexington Ave, Exeter, requested information on how library expenses are evaluated and paid. Hope provided the requested information.

9. Adjourn: Sarah James moved to adjourn at 7:06 pm. This was seconded by Kathy Boudreau and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah James
Secretary