

Draft

MINUTES

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

March 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM

In Attendance: Martha Walsh (presiding), Andrea Renz, Susan Feltus, Barbara Young, Susan Ploss, Linda George, Carol Eberhardt, Julia Lanter, Sarah James, Hilary Ireland, Evelyn Kelso, Ute Tellini

Approval of Minutes

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

Financial Report as of February 28, 2026

Donations received: \$0

Current bank Balance: \$6,261.24

Current Edward Jones account: \$38,084.03

Expenses included:

- magazine subscriptions (*Aviation Week*, *DownEast* magazine) paid for from a \$250 donation made specifically for that purpose.
- payment issued for the Bigfoot program

Program Updates

Cribbage had 12 participants.

Otto Pizza proceeds was \$469.00.

Old Business

Results of the Exeter Town Election affecting our Library were discussed. Article 10 (Exeter Operating Budget which includes library funding) and Article 18 (which creates a \$25,000 Trust Fund for Library Infrastructure) were both approved by the voters. The Trust Fund monies roll over if not used in the calendar year.

Congratulations were given to “Friends” Susan Feltus and Sarah James for their election to 3-year terms on the Election Library Board of Trustees and to “Friend” Kathy Boudreau for her election to a 2-year term on the Board.

New Business

The Community Oven Fundraiser will be held on Monday, April 27, from 4 PM to 8 PM. Shifts of Friends to sell raffle tickets will be 4-6 PM and 6-8 PM. Carol will bring the 4 baskets, although Sarah suggested we might want to save one or two of them for other upcoming fundraiser raffles. No decision was made. Martha will have the funds for making change. Julia and library staff will produce flyers. Community Oven requested

flyers to have prior to the event, likely 2 weeks. Others will be posted in town and at residential facilities.

The Spring Craft Fair will be held May 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The volunteer shifts for the Friends raffle are 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM. Andrea Renz is the Lead. A sign-up sheet was circulated among those attending. Additional help is needed.

Fund raising for the Friends at Otto Pizza is scheduled for May 18, 2026. Flyers for this event will be distributed in early May.

Community Day at Water Street Books on Thursday, July 2, 2026, will benefit the Friends of the Exeter Library. A percent of sales will be donated. Posters or flyers will be produced to publicize the event. Julia, the library director, was asked to mention the Community Day and benefit to the Friends when announcing the Summer Reading Program. Online ordering is available at Water Street Books and they offer free shipping.

Charitable Gaming has indicated we are not receiving proceeds this year. Susan is pursuing this decision since Friends have only participated twice.

A discussion ensued regarding potential fundraisers for the future. Among the ideas presented was fundraising from donated books, which would be given to businesses that would sell them. The Friends would earn a portion of the sales. Many people collect books to sell on Amazon, Ebay, etc. A pub-related fundraiser, a library picnic, and a fort-making night at the Library in conjunction with earnings from Otto sales were mentioned. It was suggested to Google “library fundraisers” to get ideas of what other library groups have done and perhaps contact them for implementation tips.

Sea Dog Brewing Company is still thinking about whether to support a fundraiser for the Friends.

Street was a suggestion for a fundraiser. Susan will check.

Library note cards for the Friends to use will be produced. Linda George will purchase the paper at Staples and be reimbursed. Kelsey Lovejoy is the contact at the Library to have the note cards color printed. A check will be issued to the Library to cover the printing cost.

The Exeter Independence Festival is going to be extra-special on Saturday, July 11, 2026, since this is our country's 250th anniversary. Events will be held all day. Sign-up sheets for the Friends activity and information table will be available as we get closer to July.

The Exeter Historical Society is hosting a Sweet Liberty Soirée at Fort Rock Farm at 7:00 PM on July 11, 2026. Martha will be sending out an email to the Friends membership to determine if there is interest in reserving and decorating an 8-10 person

table with a theme of choice. The cost is \$50 per person for light fare, a dessert and a glass of bubbly. The evening will conclude with fireworks.

Library Friends are encouraged to complete the brief survey for the Library's Long Range Plan and alert others to it as well.

Activity to research: Secret Messages on end pages of books

Library and Volunteer Needs

Julia Lanter, Library Director, requested the names of the current officers of the Friends of the Exeter Public Library and that the listing online be updated. This list was provided to her

2026 Officers for Friends of Exeter Public Library
Co-presidents – Martha Walsh and Andrea Renz
Vice president – Hilary Ireland
Secretary – Carol Eberhardt
Treasurer – Roy Tellini

If we did not have co-presidents, the Friends would need a Member-at-Large since the law requires 5 officers.

Two different copies of the Friends By-laws were produced from Martha Walsh and Barbara Young. The appropriate government agency will be contacted for the latest by-laws.

Andrea and Carol will be added to the bank account and email.

Julia will have requests of the Friends in April in preparation for the Summer Reading Program.

Next meeting is April 21st at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM