

Draft

MINUTES

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

February 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM

In attendance: Susan Feltus (presiding), Linda George, Carol Eberhardt, Kelsey Lovejoy, Julia Lanter, Jenny Medlock, Sarah James, Hilary Ireland, Evelyn Kelso

Because Library Director Julia Lanter was leaving to attend a Select Board meeting, those present agreed to alter the agenda order to permit Julia to present her information first.

Library Needs:

Purchase orders for two library programs were presented, Big Foot presentation on 3/5/26 (\$500) and Irish Harpists on 3/18/26 (\$300).

The Children's Librarians of NH are reviewing performers and programs. This will be a resource for Julia requesting additional programs in the future.

The EPL is applying for Humanities Grants to support library programs.

Potential building issue costs necessitate being fiscally conservative in the event the library must provide funding.

EPL is requesting a mechanical Universal Changing Table from the town ADA fund.

Warrant Article 19 refers to library funding. Encourage all to vote in Town Elections March 10, 2026.

With Julia's departure for the Select Board meeting, Kelsey Lovejoy represented the library for the remainder of the meeting.

The minutes from the January 20, 2026, meeting were approved with no changes.

A vote to approve the requested library program expenses passed unanimously.

Financial Report as of January, 2026: Receipts included donations of \$1700. Expenses totaled \$18,040.75 with \$18,000 invested at Edward Jones and \$40.75 reimbursement for Friends purchases. The January 31, 2026, bank balance is \$6,445.21. Assets at Edward Jones total \$37,947.51.

The financial report was unanimously approved.

Cribbage had 12 people attending.

Fundraising: Hilary presented a check from our Otto's fundraiser in the amount of \$469.00. Our next Otto's fundraiser date will be in May. Our Community Oven fundraiser and raffle is rescheduled for April 27, 2026. One of our raffle baskets was stolen from Susan's car. She has begun a replacement with the theme of tea. Teas, a mug, a candle or any other appropriate donations are appreciated. The basket will be assembled at the next meeting.

Old Business- none

New Business:

REMINDER FOR ALL: The Town elections are March 10. Library budget items are included. Be sure to cast your ballot.

The Exeter Historical Society is hosting a Sweet Liberty Soirée and is asking for table decorators. Linda will call for clarification whether tickets must be purchased if the Friends volunteer to decorate a table for the event.

A brief discussion of the Trespass Bill which was passed in the NH House and will go to the Senate took place.

Charitable Gaming may reduce length of fundraising to 5 days to allow more organizations to participate.

Sea Dog is a potential fundraiser site to be investigated by Susan. The Friends could hold a raffle.

Sarah mentioned seeing a Friends of the Library tri-fold board that explains what the Friends is and what we do. It was suggested to bring it to display at the Community Oven fundraiser April 27th. A search for it and also for the Friends of the Library banner was going to take place at the conclusion of the meeting.

Hilary mentioned Barclay Chase is holding a brainstorming fundraiser session in Dover regarding partnering with Otto. The results could benefit us. Sarah brought up adult summer reading and book sharing. Hilary will contact Lauren who handles adult book clubs regarding adult summer reading and the potential for a book sharing event on the patio.

2026 Officers for Friends of Exeter Public Library-need to check bylaws

Co-chairs – Martha Walsh and Andrea Renz

Vice chair – Hilary Ireland

Secretary – Carol Eberhardt

Treasurer – Roy Tellini

Volunteer Needs – Staffing for Community Oven raffle fundraiser to be revisited next meeting.

Next meeting March 17th at 6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM