

Friends of the Exeter Public Library
Minutes of August 19, 2025, Meeting

In attendance: Andrea Renz, Sarah James, Denise Ankarberg, Evelyn Kelso, Jenny Medlock, Hilary Ireland, Martha Walsh, Ute Tellini, Julia Lanter, Jan O'Brien, Lorraine Jurdi, and Susan Feltus.

The minutes from the June 10th meeting were approved.

The permanent name tags for friends who attend meetings regularly have been ordered. There will not be a period after the initial of the last name on the tags. More tags will be ordered as needed. Ute suggested that a bolder type be used to make the names more readable.

The July financial report shows assets of \$4,917.68 in the checking account, \$10,000 in a CD, and \$700 in a US Treasury note. Expenses for the month totaled \$1,644.63. Income for the June and July included a \$200 donation from Sarah and Jeremy James, \$494.30 from Otto Pizza, and \$40 of donations at the Authors' Fair.

Cribbage: 10 participants at the June event. There was no Cribbage in July.

The Friends booth at the Independence Festival drew considerable interest with the popular craft offered. The volunteers did a fabulous job, and the volunteers helping with the set up by picking up the materials were especially helpful.

Next year, the foam for the headbands needs to be thinner to facilitate the stapling. It was suggested that a banner be provided in front of which photos of the children with their headbands could be made.

Color Our World, the closing event of the summer reading program, is August 20. 2-3 volunteers are needed. Volunteers are asked to wear solid colored shirts in keeping with the color theme.

The fall crafts fair is September 13 from 10-1. There will be 31 vendors. Martha volunteered to take the lead. Andrea will prepare the raffle sheets. Susan will secure bags. Volunteers are needed for the second shift of 11-1. Respond to the library email address to let Martha know if you can help.

There will be a gathering of Friends groups sponsored by the NH Library Trustees Association in Hooksett on September 27. Martha and Andrea will attend. Registration must be completed by September 21. If you would like to attend, contact Martha at the library email address for registration and carpooling information.

The teens and teen librarians sent a note thanking the Friends for the snacks provided. The Children's librarians prepared a notebook with photos and information about each of the summer's events paid for by the Friends. You can ask to look at this notebook at the circulation desk.

There was discussion of the Exeter Library's cosponsoring an author event with the Stratham library in 2026. Julia was encouraged to contact Waterstreet Bookstore concerning sponsorship.

The garden in Founders' Park, adjacent to the Library, is maintained by Friends' volunteers. A lighter hose is required, and the Friends will pay for it. Sarah and Doreen will purchase it.

Julia asked for funding for raised beds to be placed in Founders' Park. Food for the children's department animals would be raised by the children in these beds. Several suggestions were made about sponsorship or donation of the beds.

Julia asked for and the meeting approved \$150 for Rambling Richard live music on September 2.

Julia discussed with the meeting the need for storage in the crafts room. This is an aesthetic and safety issue. With the storage, there would be room for benches to be used for story hours. The project could be done in stages. No decision was reached.

Julia asked for \$1,700 for staff training which would include staff of 21 area libraries. She also asked for funding for a catered lunch. The consensus of the meeting was that other libraries should be asked to contribute to the cost of the training. Julia

will talk to Otto Pizza and Shooters Pub about donating the lunch food.

The next meeting of the Friends is September 16 at 6:30 at the Library.