

Draft

MINUTES

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

August 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM

In Attendance: Andrea Renz (presiding), Martha Walsh, Sarah James, Carol Eberhardt, Lorraine Jurdi, Chandra Boudreau, Susan Feltus, Evelyn Kelso, Hilary Ireland, Catherine Vasilopoulos, Patricia Evans

Welcome to new Friends members Catherine Vasilopoulos and Patricia Evans. We are happy to meet you.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July 2026 meeting were approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report

- The report was reviewed by attendees and will be filed in Google Docs.
- The proceeds to the Friends from the Water Street Bookstore July 2nd fundraiser were \$341.06.

Program Updates

Cribbage had 8 participants in August. The July session was canceled due to the Independence Festival.

Old Business

- Discussion continued from the last meeting regarding the proposed letter to local newspapers (e.g. Seacoast, Exeter Newsletter, Portsmouth) recognizing businesses that support the Friends fundraising efforts.
 - Sarah James volunteered to write the letters.
 - Otto Pizza, Street Restaurant, Water Street Bookstore, and Community Oven will be acknowledged..
- The group continued the discussion of Julia's suggestion that Friends members participate in social activities together. A visit to a used book facility and Alnoba Sculpture Park were considered.
 - Susan Feltus will be the contact/liaison for a Friends trip in late September to Alnoba Sculpture Park, a privately owned venue.
 - The cost is \$15 per person for the tour, with proceeds donated to the town in support of Sawyer Park.

New Business

- Community Night at Street Restaurant will be held Tuesday, August 25th from 5-9 PM. The Friends will receive 20% of the proceeds.
 - Friends' members who choose to will meet at 5:30 PM for a social dinner.
 - Posters publicizing the fundraiser were distributed to be placed in the River Woods, Sterling Hill, The Mills, and 27 & 31 Chestnut St buildings.
- Otto Pizza Fundraiser will be held Monday, December 7th.

- The restaurant is open 11 AM to 9 PM and proceeds are earned on eat-in and takeout orders.
- Friends who wish to will meet at 5:30 PM for pizza dinner.

Volunteer Opportunities and Fundraising Events

- The Library Fall Craft Fair will be held September 26th. The Friends will hold their usual raffle.
 - A sign-up sheet was distributed for Friends to volunteer to sell raffle tickets during morning and afternoon shifts.
 - An email will follow to allow Friends who were not at the meeting to volunteer.
 - Susan Feltus will inventory the bin to determine needed supplies.
 - Andrea and Carol will be at the Library to complete the Raffle table set up
- The Library Winter Craft Fair is scheduled for December 5, 2026.
- No Friends volunteers are needed for the Library Lock-in on August 28th (4:00-10:00 PM for ages 12-17).

Library Requests – Chandra, Assistant Director, representing Julia

- September/October (Potentially): The American Songbook Jazz Concert
 - 5 musicians
 - Cost \$300.00
- November – Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra
 - 3 musicians
 - Cost \$600.00
 - Susan Feltus volunteered to send a letter requesting participation for the Friends in the PSO assistance program to lessen the cost of the performance.
- Chandra apprised attendees of the many fall and winter activities and programs the Library is planning. More information on each to follow.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Exeter Public Library (FOEPL) is **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 6:30 PM.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.