

DRAFT AS OF SEPT 17

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

Minutes of September 16, 2025, Meeting

In attendance: Andrea Renz, Jenny Medlock, Hilary Ireland, Martha Walsh, Linda George, Barbara Young, Julia Lanter, Jan O'Brien, and new members Robin Thomas and Kaye Scheidler.

The minutes from the August meeting were approved.

We welcomed new members Kaye Scheidler and Robin Thomas.

The nametags for friends are still on order. The order was revised to make the print a bit bolder. When they arrive, Martha will order a case so that we can store them at the library. After the initial order arrives, Martha will order more nametags as needed.

The financial report as of August 31 shows total assets of \$22,994.91. This includes \$2,281.55 in the Citizens Bank checking account and \$20,713.36 invested at Edward Jones.

Cribbage: 7 participants at the August event.

The Color Our World event at the library on August 20 was a big success. The Friends assisted with some of the activities.

Martha reported that this community gathering included many families and happy, smiling children.

The music event sponsored by the Friends on September 2 had fewer participants than expected. Julia and her staff are working on a calendar that will include local events sponsored by other organizations. Once the calendar is completed, we can have further discussion on what to offer for summer of 2026.

Julia gave thanks from the entire staff of the Children's room for the multiple children's programs the Friends sponsored in 2025. The events were especially popular and well attended.

The fall crafts fair was held on September 13. There were 30 vendors. The Friends made \$311 on the raffle. Those who participated agreed it was an especially enjoyable volunteer experience.

The library will sponsor their first community resource fair on Saturday September 20 from 9 am to 1 pm. A table will be available with materials about the Friends of the Exeter Public Library.

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.

The Friends authorized \$500 for an event on October 28, which features Cryptozoology (the study and search for animals whose existence is not recognized or confirmed by mainstream science). This event is open for all ages.

The friends paid \$850 towards the staff training scheduled for September 18. This covers the 20 Exeter library staff members who will attend the training. The Friends also will provide lunch for all 37 participants. Pizza and salad was ordered from OTTO at a total cost of just under \$300.

OTTO has agreed to support the Friends again on Monday December 1. On that date, 10% of their proceeds, including both dine-in and take-out will be donated to the Friends of the Exeter Public Library.

The next craft fair at the library will be on Saturday December 6.

The next dates where the Beach Club Casino in Hampton will donate some proceeds to the Friends of the Exeter Public Library are October 3-12.

Jan O'Brien suggested we enter a gingerbread house for the Exeter 2025 Gingerbread House Contest. This fund-raiser for the Community Children's Fund is held at the Congregational Church on Front Street. Jan will bring information to our November meeting including a list of items needed to make the gingerbread house.

On Monday, December 1 we will meet at 5:30 pm, order pizza from OTTO and work together to make the gingerbread house.

A lively discussion ensued after the regular business was completed with a few members staying until the Library closing time.

The next regular meetings of the Friends will be on Tuesday October and Tuesday November 18 at 6:30 pm.