

MEETING MINUTES
Exeter Public Library
Board of Trustees
September 24, 2024
6:00 PM

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1. **Call to order** 6:02 PM in Library's Children's Room Craft Room

Roll Call: Kathy Corson (Chair), Jennifer Medlock (Vice Chair), Sarah Zachos James (Secretary), Lisa Childs-Wilson, Sherry Kostenbader, Katherine A. Boudreau, Hope Godino (Library Director)

Absent: Linda Tober, Barbara Young (Treasurer), Davis Moore

2. **(Public Comment was originally on agenda as item 8. To aid any public who may want to speak and not stay for the meeting the Public Comment Section was moved forward upon recommendation of the Chair)**

Public Comment:

Erica Wilson 81 Front St. – Erica inquired about the fall hours. She stated she loved being at the Library and being here on Saturdays and would love to see longer hours. Library hours currently are 9-1 in fall on Saturdays. She wondered if the hours of 6-8 in the children's room during the weekdays was being utilized as friends who dropped in after 5 stated that they found the children's room empty and if the hours save there could be moved to the weekend. Erica also noted that there are not many places in town that are free for families with young kids.

Hope said both the Children's and Adult floors didn't have many people coming in the afternoon when the Library was open until 5 last year. Hope also explained that for Middle School and High School aged children having the Library open at the hours of 6-8 to do homework was an important and busy time for the Library. She also noted that adults also frequently used the Library after 5 when they got out of work. Hope said she tried opening until 5 on Saturdays last year and gave it time for people to show up in afternoon on Saturday and sometimes it would be just 5 people who came in. Erica asked if the kids part of the Library could be open and the adult part closed. Hope said it doesn't work as everyone would want access.

Sarah Zachos James noted they had tried full Saturday hours and no one came back. Sarah Zachos James inquired of Hope if there was money in the budget for Saturday afternoons could there be programming to bring people around, like Lego or open art. Hope noted that last year staff in the children's room had tried art projects and programming last fall and winter and no one visited. Hope stated its not set in stone that we will be always close at 1:00. Kathy said maybe Hope could look at having one Saturday a month open longer. Hope said she would look at staff availability of staff and research the feasibility of this. Lisa Wilson discussed maybe closing at 3 not 5. Hope said she would also look into the feasibility of opening later but noted that folks are walking in right when the Library is open currently. Erica mentioned she had a 2-

year-old so they go home for nap. Then you after the nap you go “oh lets go to the Library “...and then you realize its Sunday.” Hope stated that other libraries have shorter hours and we have some of the largest open hours in the seacoast. Erica said she’s not locked in specifically on Saturdays and just more weekend hours in general. Hope said Sundays had been discussed by herself and the board and would be discussed more in the future. The trustees invited Erica to also join the friends and thanked her for speaking.

Carol Eberhart, 3 Lexington Avenue. – Carol inquired if she could receive the trustee’s information packets. Kathy Corson and Lisa Wilson showed her the packets location which were placed across from the entry door for visitors to take.

Approval of Minutes: Kathy Corson noted that it was 10 days not 6 days under section G of the June 25th minutes. Sarah Zachos James motioned to approve minutes with the noted corrections, Jennifer Medlock 2nded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports

- a. **Director’s Report-** Hope Godino. Its banned book week. Stickers and bookmarks for patrons to take. Last night the Library hosted a book talk on Gender Queer banned in many states and taken off Belmont MA reading list for high school. The book was banned in 32 states and 182 school districts. The Library has programs on Lighthouses, stitches club, craft fairs, visual thinking strategies, Korean lessons, food as medicine, music, ghost hunting 101, what is good and different about ageing. Adult book club in October is reading *Hello Beautiful* and *All the Beautiful Book Groups*. Ongoing programs include tech help, Spanish language table, cribbage, Taiwanese and American mahjongg, bridge, knitting.
The Teen Scene is hosting art contest and teens will vote anonymously. Celebration will be help for participants November 5th. October events include mini canvas painting, book group, bead lizards, zentange, all day gaming and refreshing Fridays.
Children’s Room has fall book groups, planning create club for art, art club, gamers club, D&D club and scavenger hunts and coloring pages. Storytimes are Tuesday and Thursdays and Wednesday. Friday, the Children’s Room hosts drop in craft and a Lego free build. Very busy rooms for teens and kids after school. Kids and teens will bring in books to talk about their favorite books in a book club.
- b. **Operating statement-** Kathy Corson broke down the upcoming budget process taking place September- December. Kathy explained that Hope shows that most of her budget is public services line and then staff benefits and payroll. The staff benefits for full time staff are determined in November. On Friday September 27th at 2 pm Hope will meet with the budget advisory subcommittee. This budget is different from last year as Hope changed everyone’s salary to reflect the non-union town employee scale to catch up with the town’s scale. Hope couldn’t find people to fill positions, neither could town, so the town adjusted to a new pay scale in 2023. Hope this year adjusted to the new scale that the town established.

Kathy Corson discussed a meeting with Russ Dean, Nicko Papakonstatis, Corey Stevens, Hope Godino and herself about the repair to a wall holding up Chestnut Street. One of town's line items is 100,000 for building maintenance for buildings all over town. Hope asked for 30,000 for the wall which cost 48,000. Kathy and Hope felt that the wall was part of parking lot infrastructure and if there was money left over in the town's building maintenance fund the Library could use it to help pay for the wall. The Select Board will decide at their September 30th meeting.

Kathy proposes establishing a non-capital reserve fund for the Library. This would require a warrant article which would ask to establish the fund and ask for seed money to help with capital reserve fund. The money is kept and invested and can accumulate funds for future projects. Warrant has to be discussed and voted on November, December and January. A motion to move forward with a non-capital reserve fund using Kathy's language was made by Jennifer Medlock. Sarah Zachos James seconded. All in favor.

c. **Building, Grounds, Technology**- (already covered in Operating Statement Report by Kathy above)

d. **Finance and Fundraising** -Kathy Corson. This year there will be no letter for appeal. Kathy worked with Beth Kendall and she created a new theme of books to donate for each month. Annual appeal in November will have three locations to donate; on social media, the library website and at the library service desks. Payment options will include a QR code with payment link, pay pal and check option. There will be cards at each desk with envelopes. If someone wants to dedicate an item they can. Donations could be for general fund not just books. Sarah James recommended different name, just call it "new annual appeal." Lisa Wilson confirmed thank you notes would and could still be written if a name was provided. Kathy said to give her ideas or changes and new mock ups for trustees will be available to review at the next meeting. Hope will try to get town sign for January to promote. Lisa is trying to get sign after festival of trees.

e. **Long Range Plan** – On hold, nothing to discuss.

f. **Personnel and Policy**- Nothing to discuss

g. **Friends**- Jennifer Medlock. 1st gaming days received and check placed in a 90 day CD with Edward Jones for spring help with plumbing. 2nd round of gaming days in December 8-13. Helped at September craft fair raffle. Will be there for December craft fair. On October 10th from 3-5 a multi-town friends group meeting. Ottos pizza fundraiser Monday October 21st all day. Jennifer and board thanked Ottos of Exeter for generosity to the Friends of the Library Group. Next meeting October 8th.

h. **Social** - Nothing to report

5. **Continuing Business** – Nothing to report

6. **Committees** Kathy Corson - Subcommittee of finance to go through capital improvements established, Davis Moore recommended as member. Lisa Wilson also volunteered to be on committee.

Sarah James recommended NH Trustees Association Annual meeting and encourages everyone on board to attend.

Next meeting October 22nd at 6:00 PM Library Craft Room.

7. **Closed Session** - No closed session

8. **Public Comment** - Moved to #2 in minutes

9. **Adjourn** – Jennifer Medlock moved to adjourn at 7:34 PM Kathy Boudreau 2nded.

DRAFT