

Board of Trustees Meeting
June 17, 2024 at 8:00am

From 8:00-9:15am there was a discussion between staff and the Board of Trustees about the results of the recent survey.

Nancy B. called the official meeting to order at 9:30am.

In attendance: Nancy Baker, Nancy Head, Dave Hallenbeck, Toni Dinkel, Steve Mantius and Library Director Amy Lapointe.

Pursuant to NH RSA 202-A:4-c III (a), the Library Board of Trustees convened a Public Hearing to take input on the acceptance of a gift in excess of \$5,000. Nancy H made a motion, seconded by Steve, and the board voted unanimously to accept a gift of \$13,751.55 from the Friends of the Library for the purchase of new furniture for the Doris Jones Meeting Room.

At 9:38, the Public Hearing closed and the regular meeting was called to order.

Steve made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2024 meeting, seconded by Nancy H. with all voting in favor.

There were no public comments.

The Board discussed usage statistics, noting that the community has changed and we might never fully bounce back from COVID but we have high use and do a good job satisfying certain demographics (especially families with young children and retirees).

Nancy B. said that the survey offered good anecdotal feedback and we need to remember to listen. When you are with people (programs etc.), listen to what they have to say about the library. Amy followed up reminding trustees that an important role for trustees is being the eyes and ears of the library. Listen but also advocate. Steve added that we are the best bargain in town. We are anticipating strong registration for the Summer Reading Program.

We discussed our 3 strategic plan goals (1) restore programming and activities to pre-Covid levels, 2) collection analysis and accessibility, 3) strengthening community partnerships and how current activities fit in.

At 10:34, the Board entered Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3, II (a) to discuss the compensation of an employee. The Board voted unanimously to pay Caitlyn Forsyth at G1/S4 as of July 1, 2024 in recognition of her increased responsibilities and tenure as a “returning page.” At 10:43, the Board exited Non-Public Session.

Steve reviewed the Treasurer and expense reports. The fiscal year ends June 30 and we will be underspent.

After some discussion about the appropriate time to close on the day before holidays (July 3, Thanksgiving, New Year’s Eve), Steve made a motion, seconded by Toni to approve the 2025 holiday/ closed day schedule as presented and discussed. Next year, the library will be closed on Mother’s Day and pre-holiday closure will be 3PM. The motion passed unanimously.

In the fall, the staff would like to try to get tween/teen volunteers to help watch kids in the library while their parents are attending a program with other siblings. A lengthy discussion ensued about liability. Amy will check with Town Hall to see if this would fall within our current insurance coverage. Toni made a motion, seconded by Steve to modify our current “Unattended Children Policy” to broaden “teenaged sibling or responsible adult” to “or caretaker” so that the program would not violate our policy if we decide to move forward pending our inquiry of liability. The motion passed unanimously.

We will not meet in July and the next scheduled meeting will be at 6:30PM on 8/19/24.

Notes by Dave Hallenbeck