

Keene Public Library Board of Trustees

September 23, 2025

The September meeting of the Trustees of the Keene Public Library was called to order at 5:00 pm by President Bill Stroup.

Trustees present: Bill Stroup, Jane Pitts, Paul Henkel, Kathleen Packard, Judy Putnam, Justin Somma, Don Caruso, Pam Russel-Slack, and Sam Temple.

Staff Present: Director Marti Fiske, Assistant Director Susan Bloom and Parker Goodreau.

Approval of August Minutes: Motion made by Pam, seconded by Justin, to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Kathleen Packard asked that the word “policies” in the second line of the policy report be changed to “structures.” With that change the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Bill introduced Parker Goodreau who was sitting in at the Trustee meeting. Parker works in the Youth and Community Services section. They are responsible for the book displays in the youth area, and set-up for programming. They also work at the youth desk and at community events, and run some of the youth programs, including the comics club.

Finance Committee: Judy reported that the Finance Committee is rewriting the annual calendar of the Finance Committee to update its monthly responsibilities. Jane reported two donations to the library: one from Steve Felder, a Rotary bookshelf donation of \$50; the second \$146 in anonymous cash donations to the library. Pam moved to accept the donations Kathleen seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The Finance Committee now meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM

Buildings and Grounds: Paul reported that Marti has agreed to investigate costs for replacing lighting fixtures in the Green, Miller-Vincent, Thayer, and Wright rooms to improve the lighting in those large rooms. Lighting improvement in the stacks could become a capital improvement project. Marti has spoken with WVA Engineering,

who have looked at the spaces and will propose new lighting fixtures for these rooms and also for the stacks. (The stacks have been rearranged since the 1999 project, and the lighting is no longer in the right orientation)

Paul also reported that the tree identification tags have been replaced with a set of bolder tags which are set off from the tree and will not be overgrown by the bark of the tree. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet next on Wednesdays October 15th and November 5th at 3:30 PM.

Community Outreach: the Pride Festival was well attended, and the library tent was busy. Parker worked at the event. The International Festival is coming up this coming weekend.

Long Range Planning: no report

Fine Arts: Judy reported that the City has appraised all artwork held by the city including what is at the library. The Library's holdings will be folded into the city's insurance policy. Displays in the display case are ongoing, currently there is a display of vases and flower arranging items owned by staff member Kate Montgomery. The reception event planned for the celebration of the gift of the David Wiesner print is tentatively scheduled for October 23rd pending a check of the proposed date.

Policy Committee: Kathleen presented the proposed new version of the "Use of the Youth and Teen Rooms and Services." This replaces and renames an old policy and covers more than just the use of the room but goes into depth on behavior expectations and specifies target ages to use the rooms and services. Sometimes adults try to attend activities scheduled for youth and teens. This will no longer be allowed. Participants need to be in the target age group to attend the programs. After discussion Kathleen Packard moved to approve the new policy, Pam seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The next policy update will concern parental access to records in light of House Bill 273

Friends of the Keene Public Library: Judy reported that the casino gaming nights that the friends participate in will this year be September 28th to October 7th. The Friends' book sale will be October 23rd to 26th. There will also be two pop-up book

sales, one day events in the lobby of the library. On November 15th it will be a sale of children's books and on December 13th a sale of adult fiction

Horatio Colony Museum: no report

Cheshire Literacy Coalition: no report

Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Marti gave some updates. The Trustees will be invited to lunch on November 7th at 12:15 as part of the staff in-service training day. For the Integrated Library System search three staff members will visit two libraries which use different software, i.e. Polaris and Koha, to ascertain which would be appropriate for the Keene Public Library.

With budget cuts to New Hampshire Universities, there is a discussion under way about how this will affect UNH system libraries. Marti is in touch with the Keene State College Mason library director Celia Rabinowitz and assured the Trustees that both are committed to maintaining the Keene Link, a program established 30 years ago to offer services to Keene residents at the Mason library and to college students and faculty at the Keene Public Library. The three university branches all use different software systems to organize their libraries, so there may be changes afoot. We will hear more soon OK

Old business: Kathleen asked if there were any updates on new trustees. Bill Stroup hopes to report on that next month.

New Business: Paul reported on using the tree puller from the Library of Things with great success for trail making. It was noted there was an article in the New York Times about the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, ME and its library of things.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 5:50.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Putnam