Keene Public Library

Building and Grounds Committee

Meeting held 11/12/2025

Members present: Susan Bloom, Don Caruso, Marti Fiske, Paul Henkel, Kathleen Packard, Scott Martin, and Assistant City Manager Andrew Bohannon

Lighting

At the meeting, the committee discussed a proposal from Michael Petrovick Architects to conduct a feasibility study, including a conceptual plan and preliminary budget, for lighting improvements in the areas previously identified. Kathleen noted that enhanced lighting is critically needed to improve accessibility and benefit the general public. The study would provide detailed information to support an Capital Improvement Program (CIP) request currently being prepared for City management's consideration. The initial estimate of cost is $150 K. If endorsed by management, the proposal will proceed through a public input process and review by the City Council. The earliest potential funding date for a CIP project is July 1, 2026.

Justin moved, and Don seconded, a motion recommending that the Library Board approve funding of $8,500 for the feasibility study. The study will provide the technical data and revised cost estimates needed to guide future planning. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Marti showed us the light meter that we purchased.

Maintenance. Several of the replacement windows in the children's area have been completed. The project includes all the custom windows on the Winter Street and West Street sides. The windows have arches at the top, so it was necessary to make custom windows.

It was noted that our building mechanic will be on leave for several weeks. Andy noted that provision will be made for effective snow removal.

Planned Next Meetings: 3:30 PM Wednesday December 3, and 3:30 PM Wednesday January 7, 2026

Paul Henkel, Chair

Recommended brightness standards for library meeting rooms, offices, and reading areas vary based on activity, but most guidelines refer to illuminance in lux (lumen per sq. meter). For libraries, general reading and work areas, and office spaces, 300 to 500 lux is recommended, with meeting rooms usually needing at least 300 lux and reading areas often set at 500 lux for comfort and visual clarity.

Library and Office Brightness Standards

- Library stacks and general areas: 200–500 lux is typical.
- Library reading/study areas: 300–500 lux, with 500 lux preferred for clarity.
- Meeting/conference rooms: 300–500 lux, according to AIA and industry guides.
- General office areas: 300–500 lux, suitable for computer and desk work.
- Corridors and support spaces: 100–200 lux is usually sufficient.

Inexpensive Tools for Measuring Brightness

- Handheld lux meters: These inexpensive devices accurately measure brightness (illuminance) in lux. Models with a range up to 200,000 lux and ±3% accuracy are available for under $40, suitable for your needs.
- Smartphone apps: Many phones have free or low-cost light meter apps that use the phone's light sensor to report approximate lux or foot-candle values. While not as accurate as dedicated meters, they're useful for general surveys.

Practical Steps

- Obtain a handheld digital lux meter for precise measurements of each space (Amazon, electronic supply stores).
- Consider a free or paid smartphone app (e.g., "Lux Light Meter Free" for Android, "Lux Light Meter Pro" for iOS) as a quick assessment tool.
- For each room, measure in typical usage spots (near tables, desks, and throughout open areas) and compare results to recommended standards for your library’s functions.

These standards and tools will allow you to quantify and optimize lighting for both comfort and compliance.

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Technical Specifications

Display	3 1/2 digit LCD
Measuring Range	20/200/2000/20000 Lux (1330A, also Footcandle for 1334A) | 200/2000/20000/200000 Lux (1332A) | 1 Footcandle = 10.76 Lux, 1 Lux = 0.0929 Footcandle
Overrange Display	Highest digit of (1) is displayed.
Resolution	0.01 Lux (1330A, 1334A) & 0.1 Lux (1332A)
Accuracy	±3% rdg ±0.5% f.s. (<10,000 Lux) | ±4% rdg ±10 dgt (>10,000 Lux) | (Calibrated to standard incandescent lamp, 2856°K)
Spectral Response	CIE Photopic. (CIE human eye response curve).
Spectral Accuracy	CIE Vλ function f '1 ≦6%
Cosine Response	f '2 ≦2%

Repeatability	±2%
Temperature Characteristics	±0.1%/°C
Measuring Rate	Approximately 2.0 time/sec
Photosensor	Silicon photodiodes
Operating Temp. & Humidity	0°C~40°C(32°F~104°F) 0~70% RH
Power Source	One 9 Volt battery, NEDA 1604, JIS 006P or IEC 6F22
Battery Life (typical)	200 hours (Alkaline Battery)
Photosensor	Lead Length: 150 cm (approx.)

Photosensor Dimensions	100(L)×60(W)×27(H)mm (3.94"(L)×2.36(W)×1.06(H))
Dimension	135(L)×72(W)×33(H)mm (5.31"(L)×2.83"(W)×1.3"(H))

Weight	250g (8.8 oz)
Accessories	Carrying case, Instruction manual, battery