

**Keene Public Library
Trustee Meeting
Minutes**

Date: February 24, 2026

Board Present: Bill Stroup, Paul Henkel, Judy Putnam, Jane Pitts, Kathleen Packard, Pam Russell Slack, Karthik Gowda, Hollie Seiler

Staff Present: Marti Fiske, Library Director; Susan Bloom, Assistant Library Director

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Stroup at 5:03

Approval of minutes: Pam made a motion to accept December minutes. The motion was seconded by Kathleen. **The Board unanimously approved the January minutes as written.**

Committee Reports:

- **Finance**
 - General Finance business
 - The second quarter NHCF statement was received. Our balance as of year-end is \$199,999. In the statement, NHCF also indicated that our disbursement in 2026 will be \$7,056. This money typically goes to our outreach budget.
 - Lighting project in the CIP
 - The Board learned that the lighting project's position on the CIP schedule for 2027 is dependent on the Trustees covering half of the project.
 - Marti reached out to the Friends of the Library for their assistance, and they have generously agreed to designate up to \$50,000 toward the project.
 - Paul made a motion that the trustees would agree to fund a quarter of the Library's lighting project, up to \$50,000, and thus matching the Friend's pledge of \$50,000.
 - Kathleen made an amendment to include 'in the CIP's 2027 budget' to the motion.
 - The motion was revised to say that the trustees will agree to fund a quarter of the Library's lighting project in the CIP's 2027 budget, up to \$50,000, and thus match the Friend's pledge of \$50,000.
 - Judy seconded the amended motion.
 - **The Board unanimously agreed to approve funding for a quarter of the Library's lighting project in the CIP's 2027 budget, up to \$50,000, and thus matching the Friend's pledge of \$50,000.**
 - Community Reads Project
 - The board will serve as the fiduciary body to accept donations in support of the upcoming Community Reads project.
 - February donations
 - \$50 from Charles Prigge in support of the Rotary Bookshelf
 - \$30 from Dwight and Alison Fischer in memory of Cynthia Georgina
 - \$50 from Jean Kennedy and Richard Chamberlain in memory of Cynthia Georgina

- **Kathleen made a motion to accept the donations above. The motion was seconded by Pam. The Board unanimously agreed to accept all donations.**
- Review of proposed FY27 Library budget:
 - Marti presented the Board with a proposed Library budget for FY27.
 - Marti will meet with the City Manager during the second week of March to request the budget presented.
 - The final budget will be reviewed by the City Council this May.
 - **Pam made a motion to accept the budget as presented by Marti. The motion was seconded by Judy. The Board voted to unanimously accept the proposed budget.**
- **Building and Grounds**
 - Jennifer has joined the B&G committee
 - In the past, the City has helped with pruning, cabling, and various soil treatments for the trees around the Library property. The City has asked if the Trustees could help defer some of the costs this year.
 - Paul made a motion to spend \$2,375 on various needs for the trees. The motion was seconded by Pam. **The Board voted to unanimously accept the spending of these funds.**
- **Community Outreach** (no meeting)
- **Long Range Planning Committees** (no meeting)
- **Fine Arts**
 - The Fine Arts committee is working to identify a general space to show short-term exhibits.
- **Policy**
 - The Policy committee met, but did not have anything to share with the full Board at this time.
- **Friends of the Keene Public Library**
 - No additions to what was already stated in the Finance Committee section
- **Horatio Colony Museum** (no meeting)
- **Cheshire Literacy Coalition** (no meeting)

Director's Report:

- The Board received updates on the ongoing issues surrounding the clock.

Old Business: (no old business)

New Business: (no old business)

Possible Executive Session: (no executive session)

Meeting Adjourned: 6:44 pm

Meeting Minutes by: Hollie Seiler