

Keene Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date

03/24/26

Board Present

Bill Stroup, Paul Henkel, Judy Putnam, Jane Pitts, Kathleen Packard, Donald Caruse, Justin Somma, Sam Temple

Staff Present

Marti Fiske, Library Director; Susan Bloom, Assistant Library Director

Guests

Andy Bohanan, Elizabeth Ferland, Michael Petrovick, Bobby Williams, Jay Kahn

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Stroup at 5:00

Lighting Presentation

The meeting started with a presentation of the Key Findings and Recommendation from the Library Lighting Feasibility Study by Michael Petrovick, of Architects, PLLC. The presentation provided an overview of the feasibility study and proposed lighting upgrades for the library interior, with emphasis on achieving consistent, controllable light levels in the lobby, stacks, rooms, and circulation desks.

Proclamation for Judy Putnam

Mayor Jay Kahn read a proclamation recognizing Trustee Judy Putnam's 34 years of continuous service, expressing appreciation for her longstanding contributions to the library and the community.

Approval of Minutes

Paul made a motion to accept the February minutes. The motion was seconded by Don. **The Board Unanimously approved the February minutes as written.**

Committee Reports

Finance

- Jane and Judy attended the Public Hearing for the CIP Budget and reported that there were no challenges to any library projects.
- Sam will be taking over the role as Chair of the Finance Committee. Holly will be the note taker, and Jane will continue as the Treasurer.

- Donations
 - \$50 from Tom Bassarear & Yvette Yeager in memory of Pam Bernard (unrestricted)
 - \$1,000 from Antonia Andreoli in memory of Pam Bernard (unrestricted)
 - \$20 from Karen Fanning in memory of Cynthia Georgina (unrestricted)
 - \$50 from Cameron Tease through the Keene Rotary Bookshelf program (unrestricted)
 - \$50 from Louse Zerba through the Keene Rotary Bookshelf program (unrestricted)
 - \$50 from Charles Priggy through the Keene Rotary Bookshelf program (unrestricted)
 - Kathleen made a motion to accept all donations. Judy seconded. **The Board unanimously agreed to accept all donations.**
- Jane reported that the trustees paid \$6,800 of the \$8,500 for the Lighting Feasibility Study with the remainder to be paid for the finalization of the project.

Buildings and Grounds

- The committee did receive the Lighting Feasibility Study at the February meeting.
- The Heberton Floor will be sanded and refinished in May.
- Paul expressed appreciation for Andy's support at for the Lighting Feasibility Study at the CIP presentation to the public.

Fine Arts

- There is a current display Keene Middle Schools students Art in the Atrium. Amy Kraemer organized a reception that was well attended by families of the students.

Policy

- Work on the bylaws is ongoing. The committee anticipates bringing a draft to the Board next month, though additional time may be needed.

Friends of the Keene Public Library

- Susan Matthews will step into the role of liaison once she is approved as a trustee.

Horatio Colony Museum

- Did not meet

Cheshire Literacy Coalition

- Marti reported that members of the coalition attended the presentation on Grant Station.

Director's Report

- Rylan Christen will attend next month's meeting. Rylan is being cross trained to provide MakerSpace support.
- The MakerSpace had an open house this past weekend that was attended by 25 people. 15 of those had not used the MakerSpace before.
- The 2026 Legislative Delegation Invitation will take place on 4/6/26 at Delegation Hall.

- Susan will be the library lead for the digital accessibility compliance activities.
- Susan will act as Director while Marti is at the PLA Conference.

New Business

Bill made a motion to make Judy a Trustee Emeritus. Justin seconded the motion. The board unanimously passed the motion.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Minutes Prepared By

Susan Bloom