

Keene Public Library
Building and Grounds Committee
Meeting held 6/10/2026 at 3:34 PM

Members present: Don Caruso, Paul Henkel, Justin Somma, Assistant Library Director Susan Bloom and Shane Baker.

The meeting began at 3:34 PM.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously. (Jennifer Friedman will prepare future minutes.)

Landscaping

Beech Leaf Disease was discussed and the consensus was that it is best to address the disease at this time before it seriously affects the tree. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Don to spend up to \$1600 from Trustees' funds and have Bartlett Tree Experts go forward promptly treating the European copper beech on the Winter street side of the library. The motion was unanimously passed.

The amount is within the Buildings and Grounds budget, so this amount is duly authorized and no further action by the Board is required. Shane said he will work with Andy who will contact Bartlett Tree Experts.

Atrium Art Project

Justin Somma updated us on the Fine Arts Committee project to install art rails in the Putnam Atrium. The museum grade rails will support up to 80 pounds per linear foot and they have better aesthetic appeal than the lesser rails. It was noted that stronger is often better in a public setting like the Library. Shane confirmed that city staff will be able to install the rails.

Susan Bloom mentioned that magazine racks might be consolidated into a single room. If that occurs, there may be additional wall space in the room which no longer has magazines, so additional art rails might be installed.

Maintenance.

Shane Baker reported that the walkway has been repaired so there is no longer a safety issue. Repointing the granite blocks lining the top of the wall in the outdoor courtyard north of the Putnam Atrium does not pose a safety risk; replacing the mortar will be addressed in the future.

The meeting ended at 3:55 PM.

Next Meeting 3:30 PM Wednesday August 12

Paul Henkel, Chair