

Keene Public Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 25, 2026

Board Present: Jane Pitts, Kathleen Packard, Don Caruso, Hollie Seiler, Karthik Gowda, Paul Henkel, Sam Temple, Jennifer Friedman, Pam Russell Slack

Staff Present: Marti Fiske, Library Director

Guests: Bobby Williams, Keene City Council

The meeting was called to order by Bill Stroup at 5:26

Approval of minutes: Jennifer Friedman made a motion to accept the June minutes. The motion was seconded by Don Caruso.

- **Update to June minutes:** None
- **The Board unanimously voted to approve the June minutes as written.**

Committee Reports:

- **Finance**
 - General Finance business
 - Finance will have a special meeting with Alan Stroshine to discuss the Library's portfolio and strategy options to bring to the Board
 - Treasurer's report
 - April 1 – June 30 (Q4) cash flow and expenses were reviewed
 - Jennifer Friedman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Pam Russell Slack seconded.
 - **The Board voted to unanimously approve the Treasurer's Report**
 - July donations
 - **\$100.00** - Peter Espieffs
 - **\$250.00** - Historical Society of Cheshire County (for Community Reads Program)
 - **\$500.00** - Jonathan Blair and Sheila Bloom
 - **\$100.00** - Ruth Cretella in memory of Pam Bernard
 - Jennifer Friedman made a motion to accept July donations. Karthik Gowda seconded
 - **The Board voted to unanimously approve all July donations.**
- **Building and Grounds**
 - Specifications are being prepared by the city for all three phases of the lighting project.
- **Community Outreach**
 - The Board was instructed to reach out to Amy Kraemer at akraemer@keenenh.gov if they have interest in volunteering during the following events:
 - Observe the Moon: Saturday, September 19 (7pm)

- Pride Fest: Sunday, September 20 (need someone for lunch reprieve from 1-2pm)
- **Long Range Planning Committees** (none)
- **Fine Arts** (none)
- **Policy**
 - Kathleen Packard made a motion to adopt a new museum pass policy. Jennifer Friedman seconded.
 - **Bill Stroup, Jane Pitts, Jennifer Friedman, Kathleen Packard, Pam Russell-Slack, Karthik Gowda, Don Caruso, Hollie Seiler, and Paul Henkel voted in favor of adopting the revised museum passes policy. Sam Temple abstained. The new museum policy will be adopted.**
 - Kathleen Packard made a motion to adopt a new default replacement cost policy, Pam Russell Slack seconded
 - The policy is adjusted for inflation, and it has been two years since the policy was updated.
 - **The Board voted to unanimously adopt the revised Default Replacement Cost Policy.**
 - Next Policy meeting is September 15 at 5:15pm.
- **Friends of the Keene Public Library** (none)
- **Horatio Colony Museum** (none)
- **Cheshire Literacy Coalition** (none)

Director's Report:

- Marti Fiske is working to distribute increased hours across a couple members of the Library's staff to accommodate another staff member's maternity leave.
- The Library is reviewing proposals for the development of a new website. The vote to select a proposal will go to Board vote in September.
- The Board reviewed HB 1184-FN, which goes into effect October 18, 2026.
- The Library will be the recipient of a community partner award at the upcoming Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) annual celebration on Thursday, October 22nd from 6-8:30pm at the Walpole Town Hall. Marti Fiske and Amy Kraemer will accept.
- Community project funds received this year will go towards hosting a local non-profit summit and a database will be created to collaborate on projects and a shared, community calendar of events.

Old Business (none)

New Business:

- The Director of 100 Nights has asked the Library to be a stop for their Amazing Race fundraiser. There will be a challenge site in the atrium that will be library themed. The date is September 12. Paul Henkel moved to approved the use of Library space for this endeavor and Jennifer Friedman seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve this community collaboration with 100 Nights.
- The summer reading program was highlighted as a great success.

Possible Executive Session: (none)

Meeting Adjourned: 6:24

Meeting Minutes by: Hollie Seiler