Keene Public Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 27, 2026

Board Present: Kathleen Packard, Don Caruso, Hollie Seiler, Paul Henkel, Jennifer Friedman, Susan Matthews, Justin Somma, Pam Russell Slack, Sam Temple

Staff Present: Marti Fiske (Director), Susan Bloom (Assistant Director)

The meeting was called to order by Justin Somma at 5:02

Jennifer Friedman moved to approve the meeting minutes from September, which was seconded by Don Caruso. The Board unanimously approved the September meeting minutes as written and there were no updates to be made.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance**
    - Donations:
        - $50 from Judy Putnam in honor of Jane Rustin (formerly Jane Perlungher)
        - $50 from Judy Putnam in honor of Ardis Osborn
        - $100 from Mitchell Bernard in memory of Pam Bernard
        - $100 from Susan Small for Makerspace support
            - **Pam Russell Slack made a motion to accept all donations received in September, Don Caruso seconded. The Board voted unanimously to accept all donations.**
    - The Library received notification that the Harry C. Lichman Trust is terminating. On September 30, the market value of the Trust was $942,500, which will be split 50/50 with the Cheshire Medical Center. Reserve expenses are expected to be about $3,500.
        - Due to the amount of the distribution, it is required that the Trustees take out an ad in the Sentinel to notify the public. **Paul Henkel moved to approve funds for the ad, up to $300. This was seconded by Katheleen Packard. The Board unanimously voted in favor of spending funds, up to $300, to advertise in the Sentinel.**
- **Building and Grounds**
    - The Committee reviewed the proposal for the lighting project and, due to a missing room and inadequate lighting projections in others, revisions were made.
    - More conversations around modifying the TV studio into a revitalized makerspace happened, but Marti is meeting with the City Managers office to discuss further.
- **Community Outreach**
    - No meeting took place, but Susan Matthews and Hollie Seiler will talk to Bill Stroup about their interest in joining the Community Outreach Committee.
- **Long Range Planning Committee** (none)
- **Fine Arts** (none)
- **Policy**
    - The Library's social media policy was reviewed due to inappropriate comments made on

social media.

- The City Attorney advised the Library not to delete the comments based on several factors.
- The Policy Committee does not have next steps at this time, but they plan to continue conversations at their next meeting on November 10.

- A member of the public attended the most recent policy meeting to express concern over the banned book display in the youth area.

- **Friends of the Keene Public Library**
  - $20,071 was raised at the most recent book sale—an all-time high for the Friends!
  - The Friends are thinking of adopting a cashless option for purchase at future book sales.
- **Horatio Colony Museum** (none)
- **Cheshire Literacy Coalition** (none)

Director's Report:

- Marti asked if the Board would approve closing the Library on November 6 for an Inservice Training Day. **Pam Russell Slack moved to close the Library on November 6 and Jennifer Friedman seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to close the Library on November 6.**

Old Business: (none)

New Business:

- Susan Matthews gave a debrief of a recent NHMA session she attended that talked about public meetings. She took notes and will pass them along to Marti to distribute to the Trustees.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:13

Meeting Minutes By: Hollie Seiler