

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Meeting Room Side A
Monday, March 16, 2026

Present: Meryle Zusman (*Chair*), Kathleen Niemiec, (*Director*), Pete Marcotte, Jessica Restucci, Erin Spencer (*Town Council Liaison*), *Newly elected Trustees* - Peggy Nolan and David Provencher, and Sam Schreiner (*Alternate*)

Present Remotely: Lorraine Lindenberg (*Treasurer*)

Absent: Andrea Lindsey (*Vice Chair*)

Public: Victoria Austin and Monica Cataldo (former Trustees), and Town Clerk, Cristina Guilford, briefly at the beginning of the meeting to swear in newly elected Trustees

Town Clerk, Cristina Guilford, swore in the newly elected Trustees: Peggy Nolan, David Provencher, and Jessica Restucci. After a welcome by Chair Meryle Zusman and introductions around the room, the Public Session of the meeting started.

Call to Order: Meryle Zusman called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

Amendments to Agenda: Director Kathleen Niemiec added two amendments under Old Business

1. NHLTA Conference information
2. Possibly selling our e-bikes

Acceptance of Minutes of 2/19/2026

Pete Marcotte moved to accept. Jessica Restucci 2nd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present in-person and remotely.

Treasurers' Report:

Treasurer Lorraine Lindenberg (*remotely*) reported we are in Period 8 and through 66.7% of the fiscal year with 33.3% remaining, and have expended 66.4% of the budget. We paid Donnegan Systems \$887 for storage of microfilm images. We paid electric bills for January (\$2,344) and February (\$2,824). Special Fund balance was \$220,645.14. There were no questions.

Director and Staff Report – Director Niemiec reported that ENE is scheduled to come tomorrow (3/17) to finalize the boiler installation.

Last month there were a lot of legislative updates. This month only HB1214 (which would have put control of the library to the municipality's governing body rather than a Board of Trustees) was voted down in committee as "inexpedient to legislate."

She also noted that our programs were "flagged" by the state's computer program as being "excessive," which is a positive thing, meaning we do a lot of programming. Both Director Niemiec and Chair Meryle Zusman noted the huge amount of upcoming 250th anniversary programming and congratulated the staff for their planning efforts.

Gift and Unanticipated Revenues:

\$506 from the American Online Giving through Benevity – Pete Marcotte moved to accept; Jessica Restucci 2nd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present in-person and remotely.

\$200 from the Derry Garden Club in memory of two members. Pete Marcotte moved to accept. Jessica Restucci 2nd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present in-person and remotely.

\$500 from NH Writers Project for Author Fest expenses. Pete Marcotte moved to accept. Jessica Restucci 2nd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present in-person and remotely.

Trustee Marcotte asked about the previous contribution to Author Fest by Derry Medical Center. Director Niemiec explained that is anticipated.

Meryle Zusman moved to “Accept any and all unrestricted monetary gifts and unanticipated revenues received between this meeting tonight and the next meeting in April.” Jessica Restucci 2nd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present in-person and remotely.

Correspondence: None.

Announcements: None

Public Comment: Outgoing Trustee Monica Cataldo explained the role of Secretary regarding thank you notes and personalized notes with staff gift cards at Christmas. Also, the new Secretary of the Board would take notes in the absence of Jack Robillard, current Recording Secretary.

Meryle Zusman expressed the Board’s sincere appreciation for Monica’s service over the past 6 years.

Town Council Liaison, Erin Spencer, expressed thanks and welcome to the new Trustees and would be available for assistance in any way possible.

Chairman Zusman noted the Board will choose new officers and committee members shortly.

New Business:

Review proposed FY2027 Fine Account budget – Director Niemiec explained the proposed Fine Account budget should be submitted around the same time as the General Fund budget, as requested by the Town. It was approved by the board’s Finance Committee and now had to be voted on by the full board for approval.

Pete Marcotte moved to accept the proposed FY27 Special Fund (“Fine Account”) budget. Meryle Zusman 2nd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present in-person and remotely.

Electric Bills – Director Niemiec noted that the Town negotiates electric rates. The amounts provided were added to the proposed budget. She also noted that credit for the solar farm going online is coming.

Displays in the children's room - No comments - other than school artwork was on display.

Old Business:

NHLTA Conference information – Pete Marcotte and Meryle Zusman encouraged new Trustees to attend the upcoming conference (May 27 at Doubletree Manchester). It was noted that the library pays for Trustees' admission and they should contact Director Niemiec if they would like to attend. Various classes are offered from which to choose, and useful information is also available online at nhlta.org or in the Trustees Manual, located in the library.

E-Bikes -There was an extended discussion about the possibility of selling the library's two e-bikes. They have only been used rarely and never with the trailer due to hardware issues. It was noted that the library has limited staff, NH weather concerns, and the terrain in Derry as compared to city travel, specifically Concord Library's e-bike use. Lebanon's library includes e-bikes in their "Unusual Items" for check-out, but concerns were raised about liability. Concerns were also raised about recouping the cost we're expended so far. Trustees Pete Marcotte and Lorraine Lindenberg expressed strong concern that we have not fully piloted a project involving the e-bikes and we should try it for at least a year. Pete Marcotte noted that e-bikes were part for our previous Strategic Plan.

Chair recognized Victoria Austin (member of the public) to comment. Victoria asked if the cart could be used by itself in the park to promote the library.

Chair Meryle Zusman suggested:

1. Find out the cost of the hitch for the wagon
2. Find out if staff are interested (and available)
3. Get options on selling

Disaster Plan – Jessica Restucci, who works in the field of disaster planning, sent an outline to Director Niemiec. She commented she now has a framework to work with. The discussion included disasters at Hookset and Leach Library. Disasters might include flooding, shootings, power outages, etc.

Erin Spencer commented that the Town has a disaster plan that may include the library as a warming and cooling center. She suggested contacting Mike Fowler. Meryle Zusman said a Disaster Plan is something to revisit next year. Director Niemiec will add it to the list for Strategic Planning.

Adjourn: Pete Marcotte moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Jessica Restucci 2nd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present in-person and remotely. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jack Robillard, Recording Secretary