

NH Library Trustee

WINTER 2023-2024

Volume 39 Number 4

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

www.NHLTA.org

Meet the 2023 NHLTA Award Winners!

Hillsborough's **Fuller Public Library** was established in 1926. The family of John Butler Smith offered to sell the John Butler Smith House to the Town of Hillsborough for \$1.00, as long as the building would always be used for the community. The library moved to its new home in the John Butler Smith House that same year.

Today, the library is the hub of the Hillsborough community. People stop by or call to ask questions, get directions, tour the building, and, of course, to check out library materials. Two generous donations to the library allowed for recent major renovations, including an elevator that allows access to all four levels of the building. The library collection resides on two floors of the building. The third floor has space used for programs, meetings and monthly art displays, and is also made available for use by outside organizations. Project LIFT, the library's adult literacy program, is also housed on the third floor. Eventually, renovations on the fourth floor will allow for even more community use of the building.

The Fuller Library is fortunate to be housed in such a beautiful and historic building, but it is their programming that impressed the NHLTA Board. In addition to their long-standing programs such as book groups, summer reading program, story times, museum passes, etc., the library offers many creative workshops, classes, and other social programs for adults, for children, and for teens.



Focusing on the community's under-served residents, the library has added the Fresh Books-Fresh Food Program that offers local produce, eggs (duck and chicken), bread, jam, and other food items for residents at no cost. In addition to their own adult literacy program, Project LIFT, which is celebrating 30 years of providing adult education and workforce preparation to adults in Hillsborough and the surrounding

communities, the library also collects food for the Hillsboro Food Pantry, works with the town's Teen Center, and partners with the neighboring Tuttle Library in Antrim on various projects. The list of the activities the library organizes and the ways it helps the community could go on and on! To quote

Above: Fuller Library Director Samantha Gallo (first row, right), staff and trustees celebrate their award with NHLTA President Marcia McLaughlin (front row, center). Left: Fuller Library supporters proudly show off the T-shirts that commemorated their library's award.

Continued on page 4

INSIDE

- 2** From the President
- 3** Library Advocacy
- 8** 2024 Conference Preview
 - Clay Memorial Library, Jaffrey
- 9** Antarctic Report
- 10** Legal Q&A
- 11** Peterborough Regional Meeting

Letter from the President . . .



Marcia McLaughlin
NHLTA President

Winter, 2024

It seems as though there's always a lot going on at the end of the year and this year is no exception – news to share, happenings around the state, upcoming events of interest to trustees. Here are the highlights:

- **NHLTA Annual Awards.** The NHLTA board has just completed this year's round of award presentations – and what worthy recipients they were! – all are highlighted here in the newsletter. I am always impressed by the people in our NH library world, be they directors, staff, Friends groups, individuals who make amazing contributions, or other library supporters. New Hampshire is blessed to have so many people who share the “library passion” gene. Congratulations to all who were nominated for an award, the selection process is never easy.
- **Budget Season.** It's on us again! My Letter from the President article in the Winter 2022-2023 newsletter focused on the trustee role in the budget process. I also discovered that several other articles in the Fall 2022 newsletter dealt with the budget process. (Back issues of our newsletter may be found on our website.) My Letter from the President focused on advocacy and highlighting the approach as multi-prong – that is, being present at budget meetings, SB2 deliberative sessions, and traditional town meetings. As trustees, advocacy also includes having the facts about your budget and being able to share them whenever, wherever possible. As always, budgets promise to be tight, and we

need to be able to defend the monies “sufficient to provide and maintain adequate public library service” (RSA 202-A:4).

- **NHLTA Board Happenings.** The board's focus is on education and to that end much of our time is spent planning. The Education Committee (composed of all board members plus volunteers) is in full swing planning for the Annual Conference, scheduled this year for **June 5, 2024**. Mark your calendars now! As usual, the conference will be information-packed and will serve as a wonderful opportunity to network with other trustees and librarians from across the state. The Education Committee is also creating a calendar of educational events which would encompass orientations, workshops, and regional gatherings (both in person and via Zoom) to provide consistent opportunities for trustees to enhance their “tool box.” You'll be informed of upcoming events via email blasts and announcements on the website.
- **Regional Gatherings.** Several were held this past year. They present an opportunity for trustees to gather and share information in a relaxed, casual, and civil atmosphere. We have learned from trustees that they really want these opportunities and plans are in the works for more in 2024, again, both in-person and via Zoom.
- **Legislation.** The Legislative Committee is following bills which have been put forth and do or could affect libraries. You can read more about them in Natch Greyes' article on page 10. Be assured that NHLTA will stay abreast of developments and encourage you to be involved in the process as well. Stay informed!

Finally, the board is always on the lookout for volunteers to fill opportunities to serve on the board, committees, at the annual conference, or one-time needs. If you think one of these roles might be of interest to you, please reach out to us. Our contact information can be found on the NHLTA website and under the board listing in this newsletter. Here's to a great 2024 for our New Hampshire library world!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia".

McKay Scholarship Deadlines

Applications for summer 2024 graduate courses must be received by April 1, 2024; one \$1,000 graduate course scholarship will be awarded.

Applications for library conferences and workshops should be submitted approximately one month before the event. Virtual courses, conferences (including NHLTA's Annual Conference) and workshops are also eligible for scholarship awards.

Criteria for scholarship eligibility and a scholarship application can be found on NHLTA's website, www.nhlta.org.

How to Advocate for Your Library

By Mindy Atwood, Assistant State Librarian
at the NH State Library

Library advocacy comes in all shapes and sizes. You may already be doing advocacy work and not even realize it!

For example, under RSA 202-A:11, library trustees must “prepare an annual budget indicating what support and maintenance of the free public library will be required out of public funds for submission to the appropriate agency of the municipality.” If you’ve ever appeared before a Select Board or a budget committee to talk about the proposed library budget, that’s advocacy. If you’ve ever defended the library’s budget, that’s definitely advocacy!

Have you ever told a friend or neighbor about a great event at the library or shared about a new service the library is offering or commented to someone how friendly the library staff is? Also advocacy!

I mention these examples to underline the idea that if you love libraries, you’re already a library advocate. With the 2024 New Hampshire state legislative session approaching, there will be another kind of advocacy afoot.

The New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA) and the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association (NHLTA), with help from Natch Greyes at the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), have been working together to review proposed bills that relate to libraries. (See a summary of the proposed 2024 legislation in *Legal Q&A: 2024 Legislative Update* on page 10.) NHLA and NHLTA will likely submit letters that support or oppose some proposed legislation. In the past, both librarians and trustees have testified for or against proposed legislation at hearings.

You can help by simply getting to know your state representative(s) and state senator. You could send your representative(s) an email that shares news about a great event the library just had. Or introduce yourself and ask if they would like to be added to the library’s newsletter distribution list. (You may find your representative and their contact information at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/default.aspx.)

Another idea is to have library staff and trustees work together to create an “elevator pitch” about the library. A formula for this might be 1) mention some good news about the library, for example, a great speaker or the book club or an afterschool program; 2) mention that libraries are always open to everyone in the community; and 3) end by asking a question like, “What could the library do for you or your neighbors?”

Advocacy is building awareness of and appreciation for New Hampshire’s public libraries. This is work we all do every day already. If we can think about how to spread the word about the good work libraries do, we will all benefit.

If you have any questions about upcoming state legislation, I encourage you to reach out to Marcia McLaughlin who is the chair of the NHLTA Legislative Committee at m.mclaughlin@nhlta.org and/or Denise van Zanten who is the past-president of NHLA and the incoming chair of the Legislative Committee for NHLA pastpresident@nhlibrarians.org.



Mindy Atwood

Calendar 2024

April 13, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Seacoast Area Regional Gathering

Weeks Public Library, 36 Post Rd, Greenland, NH 03840

May 7, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Trustee Orientation

NHMA building, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

June 5, 9:00 am

2024 Spring Conference & Annual Meeting

Registration and breakfast open at 8:00 am
Grappone Center, 70 Constitution Ave., Concord

Be sure to check the NHLTA website and LISTSERV® for the latest information about upcoming events.

Meet the 2023 NHLTA Award Winners!

continued from page 1

the Hillsborough Select Board, “The Fuller Library and staff go above and beyond being an integral part of the community by not only offering a good mixture of programs and events for our many residents of all ages, to contributing their time outside of work hours to volunteer and attend various numerous community events.”

On October 28, a grateful community turned out to cheer and applaud as NHLTA President Marcia McLaughlin presented Library Director Samantha Gallo, the library staff, trustees and Friends with the award for **NHLTA Library of the Year**.

This year there are two recipients of the **Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year Award**: **Liz McConnell**, chair of the board at the Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library in Brentwood and **Eula Kozma** who serves as a trustee of the Tracy Memorial Library in New London.

In her role as trustee chair, Liz applies her professional experience and personal knowledge of the library’s services to her commitment to the library’s critical role in the community. During the height of the pandemic in December 2021, on two separate occasions Liz proactively worked with the NH Division of Public Health Services and the library director to arrange for a mobile Covid-19 vaccine van at the library. Liz organizes and conducts meetings among various groups to support the library

through the development of new projects and services. Currently, Liz is involved in bringing to the library a workshop entitled “Skills for Bridging the Divide,” which seeks to encourage the learning and practicing of skills for respectfully clarifying differences, searching for common values, and affirming the importance of relationships.

Liz supports the operations of the library, assisting the staff in a multitude of ways. She encourages all staff members, including teen pages, to balance work, school, and home activities. At the same time, she maintains appropriate boundaries, allowing the director to build her skills and feel comfortable trying new things. The relationship between Liz and the library director is a solid and mutually beneficial trustee/director partnership.

Liz continually strives to build solid relationships and consensus with everyone she works with. She enthusiastically makes every effort to recruit others who share her passion for the library to join with her in supporting and advocating for this vital resource and all it has to offer the public now and in the future. During budget season, she brought representatives from the town, the library, and an engineering firm together to quickly work out a plan for Town Meeting. She has shown many times over her ability to maintain a professional demeanor and seek agreement when dealing with differing opinions among groups including the Select Board, budget committee, other trustees, and patrons to move forward with the best resolution for issues relating to the library. In addition, mindful of the future, she is currently working to mentor another member of the board to assume her leadership position in the future.

Ms. McConnell has earned the trust and respect of her superiors and peers on a state and national level as well as among local Brentwood residents. NHLTA President Marcia McLaughlin presented Liz with her award at a ceremony on October 16, 2023.

During her two terms on the Tracy Memorial Library Board of Trustees, **Eula Kozma**’s exceptional leadership skills, and commitment to the community have earned her praise from her colleagues: “Eula has many talents and uses them to the benefit of Tracy Memorial Library and is most worthy of this award and distinction;” “Eula deserves this award because she demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and dedication during

Liz McConnell, chair of the board of trustees at the Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library in Brentwood, accepts her Trustee of the Year Award from NHLTA President Marcia McLaughlin.





Left to right: NHLTA Board Director Kathryn Parenti, Trustee of the Year award winner Eula Kozma and Bartlett Memorial Library Trustee Chair Sherry Williams.

challenging times of the library;” “Eula’s patience, professionalism, as well as her sense of humor, were instrumental and reassuring during challenging times.” She has served on the board in multiple leadership roles. Under her calm, compassionate, and wise leadership as chair, the board supported the director and her management team through the initial months of the pandemic tumult. After the departure of the library director during the pandemic, Eula supported the library management team while leading a search for a new library director. She collaborated with the assistant director and two key board members to successfully manage a major facilities project.

Eula has always been interested in education – it has been a common thread in her professional and volunteer work, whether promoting literacy or promoting opportunities for experiential learning. During her career, her work has focused on furthering the mission and goals of nonprofit organizations. She currently works in the Head of School’s office at Proctor Academy. The new role and ethos of the school (Live to Learn. Learn to Live.) is a great fit for her background and skill set. Concurrently with her library board service, she has also served as president of the local elementary school’s Parent Teacher Organization.

On November 9, 2023, NHLTA board member Kathryn Parenti presented Eula with her award at a well-attended Select Board meeting in New London; Eula’s parents, husband and children were in the audience to cheer her on.

At right: Former NHLTA board president Katrinka Pellecchia applauds as Madbury Director Susan Sinnott accepts her award.

When **Susan Sinnott** joined the staff of the Madbury Public Library 10 years ago, the library was very different from the one she directs today. The library was crammed into a small ranch house, but under her enthusiastic management it became a practical and welcoming space. As the town worked to plan a new building, Susan was involved in every step of the process. The trustees attribute the success to Susan’s positive relationships with library staff, trustees, and town officials and her ability to involve not just the staff but all town residents in the relocation efforts during the winter of 2019.

2020 was supposed to usher in an exciting new beginning for the Madbury Library. Instead, thanks to the pandemic, the library closed its doors. But Susan made certain that all library materials were still available via lobby pickup, and worked with the staff to provide virtual programming. Once the pandemic was over, the library welcomed groups into its community space and Susan worked with the children’s librarian, trustees, and Friends of the Library to develop the Children’s Nature Play Space and Pollinator Gardens which opened in the fall of 2022. The Madbury Library has a very small staff, so you’ll often find Susan covering the front desk. She augments the small budget with grants that have provided new shelving, computers, and AV equipment. But the trustees feel that it is her outreach and connections to the community that make her a key player in the success of the Madbury Public Library, leading staff and patrons



Meet the 2023 NHLTA Award Winners!

continued from previous page



Left to right: NHLTA board members Conrad Moses, Tammy Hooker; award recipient Connie Kirwin; former NHLTA board member and president Katrinka Pellecchia; NHLTA Board President Marcia McLaughlin; and former NHLTA board member and president Susan Gaudiello.

alike to enjoy and support what has become a rich community asset. On October 16, Katrinka Pellecchia presented Susan with her award on behalf of NHLTA before an enthusiastic gathering of well-wishers.

The Dorothy M. Little Award was created in 1988 in honor of Dorothy M. Little, a trustee of the Lane Memorial Library in Hampton, and is presented to an individual who has demonstrated sustained extraordinary public library advocacy and activism on a local, regional, and state level. Previous recipients of the award include Terry Knowles, Lillian Edelmann, and Lori Fisher. A plaque at the NH State Library lists all the recipients of NHLTA's Dorothy M. Little award. This year, the award goes to NHLTA Board Director **Connie Kirwin**.

Connie served as a trustee of the James A. Tuttle Library in Antrim from 1994 to 2009 and has served on the NHLTA Board of Directors since 2009 – an impressive 29-year history of volunteer library service!

Connie's impact is felt in libraries large and small across New Hampshire. Many trustees at the various libraries know her, largely because of conversations she has had with them concerning trustee matters. The "ask a trustee" feature of NHLTA brings questions that Connie can either field or crowd-source via the **LISTSERV®**, which she does very effectively. This service helps library

trustees across the state, often answering a question they didn't realize they had. In addition to the ListServ, as chair of NHLTA's Communication Committee Connie oversees the NHLTA website and is head of the team that works on the quarterly newsletter as well as other communications. She also manages the membership roster, helping to ensure that it is up-to-date. Every year she generates a schedule for the Annual Conference, which includes necessary tasks and the all-important deadlines. Last but not least, she is a member of the Governance Committee and over the years has participated in deliberations on many key matters, providing the board with appropriate perspective due to her encyclopedic knowledge and/or from the meticulous notes she has kept over many years, helping the association move forward as changing times and circumstances require.

None of these activities are flashy. Connie is a quiet leader within the NH library community, choosing to stay in the background. But it is the background that makes the difference. In the words of former NHLTA board president (and 2019 Dorothy M. Little award winner) Adele Knight, "In short, she knows how to get things done!" Katrinka Pellecchia presented the award to Connie at a special celebration at Antrim's James A. Tuttle Library on October 28.

The Friends of the Goffstown Public Library service is an expression of the kind of community we all want to live in – caring, generous, and defined by a commitment to learning and enrichment. The Friends are passionate supporters of the library, donating time, money, and effort to helping the library achieve its mission. Without them, the library would not be able to offer any of the amenities, programs, and services currently provided to the community. Whether they are buying furniture, funding the user pass program that provides cardholders with low or no-cost access to fifteen different museums, parks and discovery centers, or providing lights for outdoor programming, the Friends are always there. Twice each year they run outdoor book sales to earn the funds that they use to benefit the library and the community. They sponsor the "Once Upon a Time Pie" fundraiser; outdoor concerts; a "beautification day" for the library grounds; children, teen, and adult programming/workshops; and a



The Friends of the Goffstown Public Library pose proudly with their award. Left to right: Kathy Holt (front); middle row: Terri Humason, Louise Porter, Georgia Drew, Danielle Dillaway; top row: Tammy Gross, John Porter, President Bill Babine, Sue Babine, Virginia McGeorge.

seed library. Some of these endeavors require a significant amount of hard physical labor. Yet they do it all cheerfully in support of the library and its mission. No “ask” is too big and they are the library’s most vehement supporters.

In 2019, Goffstown Public Library was awarded the Library of the Year award and in 2022 the Director of the Year award. There are obviously great things happening at Goffstown’s Library! NHLTA Board Director Debra Caplan presented the Friends with the **Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support of a Friends Group** on November 8 at a ceremony at the library.

Jeanne **Palleiko** has a tenacity that few possess and a strong drive for public service. From her fundraising efforts, raising well over \$600,000 for the Library Foundation, to her efforts in organizing a grassroots campaign throughout Newbury, Jeanne has shown outstanding service on behalf of the Newbury Public Library and the Newbury Public Library Foundation. She has been a trustee, serving as treasurer, and worked as a bookkeeper for the Newbury Public Library, as well as chairing the Newbury Public Library Foundation.

In addition to the many financial benefits she has spearheaded, she has also helped to push forward support within the community, including votes for a recent warrant article which passed with overwhelming support from the town, making the improvements and expansion of the library possible.

She has demonstrated her dedication to the success of the library, and is a tireless advocate. It is clear to all who know her that she has not done this for the glory, she does it because it needs to be done. She never complains and says her reward is all the new friends she has in Newbury.

On Friday, December 1, NHLTA President Marcia McLaughlin presented Jeanne with the **Special Library Service Contribution Award** at a celebration at a private home in Newbury.



Special Library Service Contribution Award winner Jeanne Palleiko with NHLTA President Marcia McLaughlin.

Plan now to attend the
2024 NHLTA Spring Conference!

Wednesday, June 5, 2024
Grappone Center, Concord

Trustee Essentials:
Today's Issues, Tomorrow's
Challenges

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Artificial Intelligence: New Landscapes:
How Libraries Will Find Their Way in the Age of AI

Nick Tanzi



Nick Tanzi is the Assistant Director of the South Huntington Public Library. He is a nationally recognized library technology consultant and the author of the books *Making the Most of Digital Collections Through Training and Outreach* and the co-author of the *Best Technologies for Public Libraries: Policies, Programs, and Services*. Nick is a past column editor for *Public Library Magazine's* "The Wired Library," and his work on the intersection of libraries and technology has been featured in publications including *Computers in Libraries*, *Library Journal*, and *Marketing Library Services*.

WORKSHOP TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

What Library Trustees Need to Know

Hot Legal Topics

Library RSAs & Other Basics

Money Issues Facing Libraries

Technology & Social Media

Advancing Strong Policies

Library Building and Renovation

Trustee Participation at Meetings

Advocating for Your Library

Clay Memorial Library in Jaffrey
Added to National Register of
Historic Places



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources has announced that the Clay Memorial Library in Jaffrey has been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior by being listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Originally built with a library on the first floor and town offices on the second, the two-and-one-half story Clay Memorial Library was constructed in 1895.

Administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historic resources worthy of preservation and is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archaeological resources.

In New Hampshire, listing to the National Register makes applicable property owners eligible for grants such as the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program or LCHIP (lchip.org) and the Conservation License Plate Program (nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose). New Hampshire's Division of Historical Resources, the State Historic Preservation Office, was established in 1974 and is part of the N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. NHDHR's mission is to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through programs and services that provide education, stewardship, and protection.



Report from the Antarctic



Jennifer A. Adams, a trustee at the James A. Tuttle Library in Antrim, spent 19 days this fall exploring the Antarctic region.

Penguins, seals, albatrosses, orcas, and whales made the trip incredible, but the discovery of a tiny library in Grytivilan touched her heart.

Grytivilan was the major whale processing center in the Antarctic, located on the island of South Georgia. In 1913 the whalers built themselves a place of worship, first called the Grytivilan Church but now known as the Whalers Church. Tucked in the back is a tiny library, holding hundreds of volumes for the thousands of whalers and

whale processing workers who would check out books between voyages and shifts.

Nearby, the Grytivilan Cemetery holds 64 graves, including empty graves for lost whalers at sea, and nine victims of the 1912 typhoid epidemic. Sir Ernest Shackleton and fellow polar explorer Frank Wild are also buried there.

During her visit Jennifer sent a postcard from the South Georgia Post Office, one of the southernmost in the world, to the Tuttle Library. It will take eight months to get to Antrim...

Top: The Whalers Church Library in Grytivilan. Left: Antarctic ice. Photos by Jennifer A. Adams.



NH Library Trustee

The Newsletter of the
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POSTMASTER:

Return Service Requested



By Natch Greyes,
Government Affairs
Counsel, NH Municipal
Association (NHMA)

2024 Legislative Update

The 2024 state legislative session is shaping up to be an interesting one for libraries. Already, there are five public legislative service requests affecting libraries. (One additional request was withdrawn.) The sudden interest by the legislature in libraries should not be surprising. For the last few years, we've seen the culture wars touch both public and school libraries. While that may seem an ominous beginning, it is important to remember that behind the clouds, the sun always shining.

Legislators genuinely want to help their constituents, but, often, they aren't quite sure where to look for information on a subject. While those of you reading this may know that the library is a good starting point, that's not the case with every legislator. It's a good idea to invite your legislators in to tour your library and explain to them how the library functions, the needs it fulfills, its importance in the community, and everything else that you'd want to showcase for any visitor. Many legislators probably last had a library tour when they got their first library card and haven't kept up to date on the many innovations since then. Keep in mind, not everyone in your community may know about your seed library, or telescope lending policy, or museum passes, or about whatever-other-cool-thing-you-do. Hopefully, once they know who to call, your local legislators will think to call you when considering legislation that affects libraries.

As I mentioned, this year, there are five remaining legislative service requests that will almost certainly be translated into actual pieces of legislation (bills). Those include:

- LSR 2024-2147: relative to the licensing of electronic literary materials by libraries. This bill is aimed at the costs incurred by libraries which lend electronic materials as compared to the costs associated with an individual purchaser of electronic materials.
- LSR 2024-2291: relative to school district collection development and reconsideration policies. This bill requires school libraries to adopt policies for materials in their collections.

- LSR 2024-2457: relative to private rights of action by school or library employees. This bill grants library employees certain additional legal rights.
- LSR 2024-2454: relative to the establishment of library collection development policies. This bill requires public libraries to adopt policies for materials in their collections.
- LSR 2024-2781: relative to prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. This bill is designed to quash the ability of public institutions from advocating for or against legislation put forth by legislators.

The fate of these bills will be decided by the legislature, but you are not powerless to help the legislature come to the best policy decision. Each bill will be assigned to a committee on the side that it originates (House or Senate) and start off with a public hearing. Even if some larger organization (NHLTA, NHMA, NHLA) is taking a position, it is still important that you come to that hearing and express your library's views. Let the larger organization know that you'll be showing up. We appreciate the heads-up and can explain the committee-specific process.

After the public hearing, the committee will make a recommendation and that recommendation, along with any dissenting recommendation, will be published in the calendar of the appropriate body, either the House or Senate. Between the time of publication and the vote by the full body, everyone will be scrambling to contact legislators to sway them one way or another. Hint: This is a great time to follow up with your legislators about your position on bills.

If a bill musters enough support to pass one body, it goes on to the next body. The committee assignment, public hearing, and voting process will all take place again. Since the two bodies don't often talk, it's important to do everything you did the first time all over again. If the bill could not get the support of a majority of those present and voting, then it dies, and you don't have to worry about it.

The session is fast paced, so it is a good idea to invite your legislators to an event sooner rather

Invite your legislators in to tour your library and explain to them how the library functions, the needs it fulfills and its importance in the community.

September 21 Peterborough Regional Trustee Gathering

than later. Not only will they have time to attend but you can also establish a relationship before you have to call them to talk about how they may vote on a particular piece of legislation. And, remember, organizations like NHLTA, NHMA, and NHLA are here to help. NHMA has started putting the bills that it follows online to make it easier for members to follow legislation. That should be updated for 2024 by the time you read this newsletter.

Editor's Note: NHMA's Legislative Bulletin is published each Friday during the legislative session (early January through the end of either May or June, depending on the year), highlighting NHMA policy bills and other bills of municipal interest as they move through the legislative process. You can sign up to receive the Bulletin at www.nhmunicipal.org/legislative-bulletins.

Additionally, NHMA provides members access to FastDemocracy, an online bill tracking platform, for efficient, real-time updates to legislative activity of interest to members. Members do not need to create a FastDemocracy account to access this information, but they are able to create an account if they wish. www.nhmunicipal.org/nhma-bill-tracker-fastdemocracy.

Do you have a great idea for an article for the NHLTA newsletter?

We encourage you to submit articles and photos to us for consideration.

Topics could include events, programs, announcements or a recent success.

Please e-mail all submissions to the editor, Katrinka Pellecchia, at k.pellecchia@nhlta.org.

The gathering began with a short slide show of the library's renovation presented by the Peterborough Town Library Trustee Chair Tina Kriebel and Library Director Corrine Chronopoulos. Key points included the concept of the purpose of the building, fund-raising and the importance of advocacy in the community as well as the importance of a strategic plan. Tina stated that grants sometimes require that a library have a strategic plan, which can be considered a useful road map. *Strategic Planning for Public Libraries*, by Joy L. Fuller was suggested as a resource. Planning tools are also available on the Massachusetts Library System Strategic Planning Guide (<https://guides.masslibsystem.org/strategicplanning>).

Other discussions topics:

- Hiring staff, full time vs. part time, determining salaries and benefits. The NH State Library (NHSL) maintains annual statistics for comparison data on its website (2022 data is now available). www.nhsl.dncr.nh.gov/librarians/library-statistics.
- Building assessment maintenance schedules. The Tuttle Library in Antrim used a building inspection



Peterborough trustee Tina Kriebel discusses the library's renovation and fund-raising.

company to assess and set up a 10-year maintenance schedule for current and future needs.

- Term limits for trustees. If the library is a private 501(c) (3) organization [or city library] the authority to set term limits is determined by the terms of the trust or charter. NH RSAs determine the terms of public library trustees, therefore it is not within the authority of a public library trustee board to adopt term limits. However, within the organization of the board, trustees may adopt a bylaw for the election and terms of officers.
- Protect the library from challenges by adopting strong policies: book collection, material collection and program selection, including a reconsideration form and process. Samples may be found on the NHLTA website under the Resources tab. There is also information on First Amendment Audits and censorship guidance available.

After the discussions, the participants split into two groups and were given a tour of the library. More than 40 trustees and library directors from the Monadnock area and beyond attended the gathering which was facilitated by NHLTA Board Directors Deb Caplan and Connie Kirwin.





**New Hampshire Library
Trustees Association**
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord NH 03301

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NHLTA Board of Directors 2023–2024

Marcia McLaughlin, *President*
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