

**New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- FINAL**

Board of Directors Meeting - via Zoom

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 10:00 am.

Attending: Marcia McLaughlin, Mark Branoff, Connie Kirwin, Conrad Moses, Tammy Hooker, Kathryn Parenti, Jeanne Palleiko, Denise Van Zanten - NHLA VP, Ann Friedman Xavier, Sue Nieman, Cathy Harvey, Susanne Whitbeck, Mindy Atwood - Assistant State Librarian

Absent: Renee Mallet, Cliff Blake

Marcia called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**Minutes:** Marcia asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes from April; there were none. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tammy made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; Susanne W. seconded. All were in favor, none opposed; PASSED.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeanne noted the conference hotel bill was \$35,000 +/- without the inclusion of the parking fees. Due to the timing of the annual dues, she will have to transfer some money to the checking account from the Stifel account. Dues from the current fiscal year were deposited in the prior fiscal year. Dues for the coming fiscal year should be paid in late June or early July so she wasn't worried about finances - it will look better next year. There were 2 applications for scholarships for the summer and the scholarship committee will be meeting soon. Ann made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Connie seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. PASSED.

Jeanne had submitted the following along with the treasurer's report: • I mailed \$25 checks to the libraries listed below, along with a cover letter announcing that the library had won the raffle. In addition, I sent an email to each trustee who won the NHLTA Passport raffle, letting her know that she had won the raffle and that a \$25 check had been mailed to her library. \$25 check sent to the library Raffle Winner from NHLA Conference George & Ella Rodgers Memorial Library Linda Pilla, Library Director \$25 checks sent to the libraries Passport Raffle Winners Chesterfield Public Library Marie Elena Potter Kingston Community Library Elsa Voelcker Salisbury Free Library Christine Dixon Olive G Pettis Memorial Library Judith Robinson • A question was raised as to whether or not the NHLTA financial statements should be posted on the NHLTA website. In the spirit of transparency, I recommend that we post the CPA's financial report once the annual review has been completed. The 990, which was filed for the past two fiscal years, is available online at the IRS website. I do not recommend posting the monthly Treasurer's Report. • I will have a detailed analysis of the Conference finances at the June Board meeting. Jeanne made the motion to post the CPA's financial report once completed, on the NHLTA website. Sue N. seconded. Tammy felt all reports should be posted for transparency. Connie felt the current one should be posted on the general website and the rest could be archived on the board page. All were in favor of the motion and none were opposed. PASSED.

**State Library:** Mindy noted she had gotten great feedback on the conference - it seemed seamless and effortless and knew that a lot of work went into making it appear that way. She noted the state budget is in the Senate and the House had really trimmed the budget for the next 2 years, which was very different from the Governor's proposed budget. The hope is the Senate puts money back into the budget. The budget of the Natural Cultural Resources budget had been cut by \$300,000 and all department heads were prepared to answer any and all questions from the Committee. In the end, only one question was asked and the hearing was over very quickly. She noted the state was hoping for robust revenue reports but they were less than expected. They are currently quietly reaching out to members of the

finance committee; they don't want to overwhelm them with too much pushback or advocacy. They are in the "wait and see" mode with regard to the final budget. She noted any federally funded jobs must be submitted to the government office on hiring. The Governor will grant waivers for these jobs. Mindy has submitted 2 that have been on the Governor's desk for over 2 months; they are being held pending budget action. 2 positions are vacant for 2 years at the state library because they are unfunded. The head of reference will be retiring, one person in talking books has left so that leaves a very high vacancy percentage. Marcia asked how many were employed at the state library. Mindy replied there were 31 with 5 part time van drivers. She noted her staff has been great throughout all of this.

On Federal news, 21 state's attorney generals filed a temporary injunction against defunding IMLS. This was very recently granted by a judge in Rhode Island. The functional pieces of this are unknown at this point but it is a most positive thing. She also noted Mont Vernon library lost its NEA grant of \$700,000. They have used some of the money during the construction of their new library but the remainder was taken away without explanation. They had fundraised \$4 million, gotten a bond for \$1.9 million and had the grant - they are currently in the middle of construction. She noted Senator Hassan had visited the construction site on Monday and there has been a good amount of press regarding this. She noted Cindy Raspiller, foundation chair and trustee, has been instrumental in gaining support for the project. Mindy felt, once the library project is complete, that she would be an excellent candidate for the NHLTA board. Mindy did note that Virginia, Connecticut and Washington all had their grants restored.

**NHLA:** Denise began by noting the NHLA spring conference was great and she is beginning to plan the fall conference scheduled for November 14. Ann said she was very impressed with the NHLA conference. She discussed the following:

- HB 273- relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records NHLA opposed. Senate Children and Family Law Committee Hearing held Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:20 am. Committee scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Bill could be voted on sometime during the meeting.
- SB 33- relative to the regulation of public school materials. Senate version of collection policies for our schools with more detailed requirements of what should be in the policy. NHLA opposed. The Senate passed. House Education Administration and Policy Committee public hearing held on Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Committee scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30-4 pm but they are not showing Executive Session but you never know if they will do Executive Session after lunch.
- HB340- relative to electioneering by public employees. NHLA opposed. Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Public Hearing held Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Committee scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. Bill could be voted on sometime during the meeting.
- HB 324- relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools. NHLA opposed. The House passed this on March 26<sup>th</sup> 183-148. Senate Education Committee Hearing held on Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Most attendees spoke against the bill. Committee scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. Bill could be voted on sometime during the meeting. Denise noted if this does pass, the Legislative Committee could work on a veto campaign.
- HB 143- relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property. NHLA opposed. Senate Judiciary Committee Committee meeting on 5/6/25 from 1 to 4 pm but the bill is not listed on the agenda for a public hearing. Senate online testimony. Denise spoke with Senator Sullivan and shared suggestions for an amendment, which she will email her today. The Senator agreed this bill wasn't a good one.
- HB 376- specifying that library user information exempted from disclosure in the right to know law includes information regarding library cards and library membership status. NHLA supports. Senate Judiciary Committee Committee meeting on 5/6/25 from 1 to 4 pm but the bill is not listed on the agenda for a public hearing. Senate online testimony.
- HB666- relative to adding fines for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters. NHLA opposed. Senate Judiciary Committee voted Inexpedient to legislate (ITL) 5-0, goes to full Senate on 5/8/25 on consent agenda to accept the committee report.

Cathy noted that Jill Alexander would be taking HB666 off the consent calendar to be sent back to committee to be amended to the first paragraph only. Denise thought this was a personal vendetta against Goffstown and noted there is already a bill, HB376, that protects information from right to know. Cathy replied, as is common, the amendment will be from a totally different bill. Denise noted HB143 had overwhelming support in the house and would be a nightmare for libraries and the police when a letter is required to trespass someone. Cathy noted it was being voted on today. Marcia thanked Denise for all of her diligence with regard to these bills.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education Committee:** Cathy H. noted she received an email from the Bristol library regarding holding a gathering in September (the email was from Sue N). She thought attendees were really enjoying them and it gives them a chance to network. Connie stated there were 44 people registered for the Newbury gathering on Monday, May 12. She hadn't received a list of attendees from Ashley yet.

**Annual Conference:** Tammy said the conference went smoothly and they are looking at dates for next year at the same location (any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in May). Jeanne noted they are trying to avoid school vacation week. Marcia said that shouldn't be a factor in finding a date - the conference is advertised far enough in advance for attendees to make plans. Tammy said there will be a follow up meeting with the conference committee. She thanked Jeanne for getting the checks to the winners of the ballots in a timely manner. There were 88 completed ballots. They spread them all out, face down and the conference committee each picked one. Jeanne noted every sponsor had a lot of visitors and were very happy.

**Communications:** Connie said Sue N. will be learning the ropes on doing regional gatherings. They are still working on the website and the NHLTA brand is still being worked on.

**Governance:** None.

**Old Business:** Marcia noted the August board meeting will be in person and the trustee orientation workshop will be the day before on August 5; Kathy will be co-presenting.

Connie noted NHLTA had gotten a request from the Amherst library asking if NHLTA can work on or provide any AI policies. She said there was a workshop at the conference about AI and they are waiting on the presentation to be sent so it can be added to the website; they could be referred to that. Marcia thought they could be referred to other sources like ALA or town council.

Marcia noted the next meeting is June 4 and the end of NHLTA's fiscal year is June 30.

**Anything that comes up after sending agenda:** None.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Susanne W. made the motion to adjourn; Ann X. seconded. All in favor. PASSED - 10:15 am.

**Next meeting:** Next meeting **June 4, 2025, 10:00 am via Zoom**.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti