

New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- FINAL

Board of Directors Meeting - via Zoom

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 10:00 am.

Attending: Cathy Harvey, Mark Branoff, Kathryn Parenti, Jeanne Palleiko, Renee Mallet, Cliff Blake, Denise Van Zanten - NHLA VP, Ann Friedman Xavier, Sue Nieman, Susanne Whitbeck, Mindy Atwood - Assistant State Librarian, Katrinka Pellecchia

Absent: Marcia McLaughlin, Connie Kirwin, Tammy Hooker

Cathy called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Minutes: Cathy asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes from August; there were none. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ann made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; Cliff seconded. All were in favor, none opposed; PASSED.

Treasurer’s Report: Jeanne noted the following:

Month	NHMA		Credit Card		Total	
	# Libraries	# Members	# Libraries	# Members	# Libraries	# Members
May	1	11	0	0	1	11
June	5	36	14	114	19	150
July	45	282	24	196	69	478
August	17	90	15	110	32	200
TOTAL	68	419	53	420	121	839

- Attempted fraud on the NHLTA checking account was caught by TD Bank before any money left the account. Someone attempted to use bill pay to send \$15,000 out of the account. (FYI, I never use online bill pay to pay NHLTA invoices.) Both checking accounts were frozen for charges until we were able to set up two new checking accounts with new account numbers. I am waiting for new checks to arrive. The NHLTA credit card was also cancelled. We have a new credit card number, but the physical cards have not yet arrived. I have activated two factor authentication, which requires both a password and a code delivered to my cell phone whenever I log into the TD Bank account.
- Tom Wallace has submitted his resignation as a member of the Finance and Scholarship Committee. Cathy stated she had an appointment with the county grant writer on September 9. There might be grants available to cover the cost of the trustee manual and newsletters. While the grant writer can’t do the work, they will point NHLTA in the correct direction. Renee stated she also has experience writing grants along with Sue W.

Katrinka made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report as presented; Sue N. seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. PASSED.

State Library: Mindy began by saying the statewide hiring freeze is still in place and the state library has had a 25% reduction in staff, resulting in 250 hours of work per week not getting done. They have been asked to operate this way for a few more months. In the meantime, she is working on a plan and procedure for a pilot program for volunteers for someone to shelve books or sort books when the ILL van arrives in the afternoon. She would start with 5-6 people and

go from there but doesn't want to indicate that the personnel cut has had no impact. She did want to give a shout out to the remaining employees and to Charles Shipman, who returned from retirement to drive the van. It is a challenge to fill van spots and she drove to Colebrook recently for a delivery. Ann asked where the reduction of staff came from, even though the budget passed (see below). Mindy replied she submits requisitions for positions and they haven't gotten responses from the governor; they have the money but no permission.

She noted the federal budget has passed and grants to states have been fully funded. The state budget has moved from the house sub-committee with no cuts. The full house approval is next and they will meet in the next week or so. She also recommended all trustees keep their representatives up to date with library happenings so that libraries are in their minds. Mindy noted Congresswoman Goodlander was recently on the radio and called out Nesmith Library regarding their solar initiatives. She has also been getting lots of emails from trustees regarding federal funding. She thought it might be helpful to have a Zoom meeting from the state library to keep people informed and answer trustee questions.

Mindy also said the state is in the process of selling a lot of state owned land which results in a lot more unhoused people ending up at libraries. Cathy also noted departments are being asked to make large back of budget cuts, for IMLS, it's an additional \$600,000 over the cuts already made. HHS has to cut an additional \$1.5 million.

NHLA: Denise began by noting NHLA is working on the fall conference on November 11 at the Common Man in Plymouth. They are keeping the agenda light and have a speaker to talk about happiness; she's also working with the NH Arts Council for an afternoon program.

HB273 is still being addressed. She is working with an attorney and rewriting Manchester Public Library's policy. They are also working on a statement of impact of the bill. They need to let teens (12-17 years old) know that parents have the right to know what they check out. She will be sharing the final results with other directors; they are also working with school librarians. She continued by stating she was contacted by NHMA attorneys regarding the trespass bill; they are being proactive because that bill will be coming back. She was also talking with the mayor and the police chief about the potential impact of the bill. She also noted that she and Rachel Baker, NHLA president, will be meeting with the governor on September 15 to discuss the good things that libraries do and offer NHLA's services to answer questions she might have. Cathy noted it was important for people to understand everything that libraries offer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications: Katrinka let everyone know about the annual award recipients: The Sue Palmatier Award for outstanding support by a Friends of the Library Group: Chesterfield Library Friends Group - Cathy will present the award once they are notified. There were 2 awards for Library Director: Brittany Durgin of Moultonborough and Caitlyn Frost of New Durham. Ann will present the award in Moultonborough and Katrinka will do New Durham. Katrinka said she begins with a speech about NHLTA and then gets to the award recipient information. There were no nominations for trustee of the year. Cathy asked if there was a motion to accept the list of award winners. Ann made the motion, Kathy seconded. All were in favor with Cathy abstaining. None were opposed. PASSED

Deadline for the fall newsletter is September 5.

Education Committee: Cathy said there were trustee and Friends gatherings coming up later this month and in October.

Annual Conference: Cathy noted Marcia was concerned about holding future conferences if there aren't conference chairs lined up to take the reins from Tammy and Janet, who are both excellent at the job. She wondered if in person conference meetings would be helpful. Katrinka said all the steps are laid out for the next conference; the process is there so the people who are shadowing can step right in. Jeanne said she has been sitting in on the Zoom calls and felt there was no need to meet in person. Sue N. has been meeting with them as well over the last couple of months. She felt it would have been helpful to sit with them at the beginning of conference discussions to get up to speed. She will remain on the committee but couldn't commit to being a co-chair at the moment.

Governance: None.

Other Business: Cathy thought it would be nice to go to other trustee meetings and introduce herself. Katrinka said traditionally, the board did not get involved like that in case they start asking questions. Renee felt it would be helpful for visibility and if any questions are asked, reply that you can't speak to that but they should reach out to the board with questions. There is value to putting a face to the position. Cliff thought it could be a good way to get conference ideas. Katrinka noted that much of that happens at the regional gatherings - trustees advise each other. Jeanne thought this would be a good conversation for the next meeting.

Old Business: None.

Anything that comes up after sending agenda: None.

Meeting Adjourned: Sue W. made the motion to adjourn; Ann seconded. All in favor. PASSED - 11:05 am.

Next meeting: Next meeting **October 1, 2025**, 10:00 am **via ZOOM**.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti