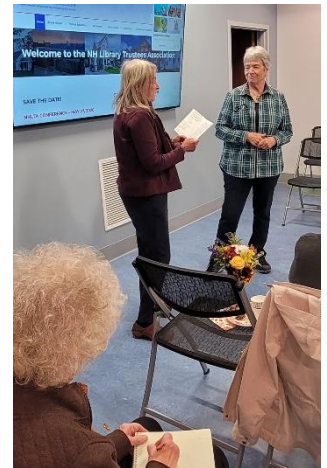


Barrington Regional Gathering

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, nearly 45 library trustees came together at the Barrington Public Library for a discussion moderated by Susan Young Gaudiello, Chair of the Barrington Trustees, and Katrinka Pellecchia, NHLTA board member.

Susan Gaudiello started the meeting showing a 4-minute video highlighting the library building renovation process starting with the building as an urgent care center, through the demolition and reconstruction progression, and ending with the installation of solar panels. Fittingly, the video, compiled by a member of the Friends group and building committee, was set to Beethoven's Ode to Joy, from his Symphony No. 9. After the video, Barrington Library Trustee Karolina Bodner honored Susan with a bouquet of flowers and special thanks from the trustee board.



Policies

A question was asked about HB273 and its implications for libraries. The bill, effective 1/1/2026, amends RSA 201-D:11 to give parents and legal guardians the right to access library records related to their minor child's borrowing materials. Katrinka used the opportunity to highlight the new NHLTA website (<https://nhlta.org/>), showing where trustees can find information related to HB273 and other legislative issues. She also noted that the Manchester City Library has done a lot of work creating policies and forms to meet the needs of HB273, and that those materials can be found on the website. NHLTA will send out more information about HB273 on the NHLTA listserv and Facebook.

Policies about AI (artificial intelligence) and censorship were also brought up. A few attendees shared information they heard about challenges facing authors or certain books. But for the most part, the attendees did not have any concerns. One person asked whether any library had adopted an anti-book ban resolution or freedom to read statement. Katrinka encouraged everyone to keep their book challenge forms and policies up to date.

Working with Friends Groups

There was a lively discussion about the relationship between Friends' members and trustees. Katrinka stated that no RSA addresses the relationship. However, it is good practice for trustees not to serve as officers for their Friends group. Barrington indicated that the trustees who attend Friends' meetings abstain from voting on spending money that will benefit the library. Other topics included writing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Friends and the library to clarify the relationship, accepting donations from the Friends group and whether a formal vote is needed by trustees, and the extent of oversight on how the money from the Friends is used. Several libraries shared their experiences with establishing a foundation to help

raise funds for capital campaigns and with casinos as source of fundraising for the Friends and foundations (organizations that work with casinos must be 501c3 organizations).

Building Expansion

A few libraries indicated they are going forward with funding for a new library or renovations to an existing building. Several questions were asked of Barrington about their recent experiences. Wolfeboro recently installed solar panels; their expansion was completed 5-6 years ago. Wakefield, a private library, raised \$7 million for their building, taking out a mortgage to help finance it. Libraries also reported different experiences in closing the library during renovations. Some moved items several times within the building and others closed for short periods of time.

Personnel Management and Hiring

Trustees shared current experiences in recruiting and hiring library directors. Many stated that they are placing more emphasis on a candidate with strong 'people skills' versus traditional library-related education and skills. Several trustees mentioned the importance of having candidates meet with staff and/or explore the library. As usual, the challenges of salary and benefits were discussed as well as the difficulties with recruiting someone from out-of-state because of the high cost of living in the area. Trustees acknowledged that their job is tough; they do not want to micromanage the director yet they need to know what is going on in the library and between staff and director.

The meeting ended with a discussion about allowing staff to work from home. Some indicated that staff often can get more work done, such as prep work and planning, when working away from the library. One library trustee said they allow staff to work from home for a small percentage of time and have included it in their policy.