



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, June 1, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Converse Free Library

DATE: 6/1/2026 TIME: 7pm TYPE OF MEETING: Regular

PRESENT: Alex Bortolot (Chair), John Campbell, Ann Christiano, Philip Kinsler, Alex Nunez (Treasurer), Erin O'Donnell, Deb Robinson (Acting Secretary), Kim Stern, Nicole Tadlock; Judy Russell (Library Director)

ABSENT: Meg Lysy (Secretary)

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

Call to Order at 7:08pm

1. **Public comments** None.

2. **Welcome Kim Stern to Board of Trustees**

Welcome Kim! Thank you for stepping in and it is lovely to have you.

3. **Approval of May 4, 2026 meeting minutes**

Minutes reviewed, will defer vote until next meeting

4. **Library Director's Report**—Judy

New Library Clerk Claire's first day went very well. Will work a full 18 hours a week. Her hours will be 1-5 Mondays, 2-5 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-5 or 5-8 Wednesdays, and 10-3 Fridays. Ursula is available as a permanent sub. The Summer Reading Program theme is "Unearth a Story," focusing on paleontology and archaeology. Will roll out the Wednesday before school lets out. Wi-Fi issues seem to have been resolved by attaching a "bridge" to the router. Our tech

person, Dan Watts, worked cooperatively with LymeFiber tech support to correct the issues. SolarEdge has been reporting issues, reviewed and resolved. Judy has shared this information with Mark Bolinger (Energy Committee), who is not concerned. The Friends have sent out their annual appeal letter. Judy has followed through with to-do's related to the American Library Association Rural Libraries Accessibility grant. It is ongoing, with a public forum to be held before the end of the summer.

5. Treasurer's Report – Alex N.

Alex reviewed Treasurer's report. See accompanying information.

6. Committee Reports

a. Policy Committee – Phil, John, Judy

1. Meeting Room Policy (no changes recommended, but please review) – VOTE DEFERRED. Meeting room policy reviewed, no changes recommended at this time.

b. Buildings and Grounds Committee –Erin, Judy

New planter boxes look lovely, no updates on the concrete, to be continued.

c. Correspondence – John

Correspondence up to date

d. Technology – Alex & Judy

Some library technology needs to be updated, Judy is planning currently

7. Business Requiring Action or Discussion

a. Report on 2026 NHLTA Spring Conference—May 27 in Manchester—Erin & Nicole. Big takeaways were contracts for library employees, establishing rules for meetings, building maintenance, and fundraising stories from successful campaigns at other libraries.

b. Fundraising: library funding overview, role of the Board, future

i. Trustees read and discussed pp 15-24 of NHLTA Manual, with reference to NH 202-A:11

ii. Discussion regarding fundraising focused on two vehicles for raising funds: a warrant article and a capital campaign.

- A warrant article would be proposed to the town to address specific library expenses not covered by the annual budget or other forms of support (e.g., the Friends of the Lyme Library).
- A capital campaign would raise funds from Converse Free Library supporters, likely to generate the principal for an endowed fund from which the Library could draw annual income.

iii. Fundraising objectives: Alex N. General discussion on fundraising goals discussed.

- Recommendation from Alex N and Judy is to pursue a warrant article this year to replenish funds in the Library's CD, which have been steadily diminished over time to cover building maintenance expenses and were further expended to replace the boiler in January 2026.
- A fundraising campaign would be in service of establishing an endowment for the library; this would be a longer-term initiative spanning several years. The idea was positively received but there was consensus that it requires further exploration this fall and winter.

v. Action items & topics to discuss in August

8. Friends (FoLL) Update—Judy

Annual meeting in May addressed the year's income and FoLL's intention to fund special projects including a refreshed Little Free Library for the Lyme Common, a picnic table and bicycle repair station at CFL, and an OWL for online meetings held at CFL. FoLL has 3 new members. They meet again Monday 6/8 @ 10:30 am.

Adjourned

Next Meeting: August 3, 2026

Minutes recorded by Deb Robinson and reviewed for accuracy by Judy Russell and Alex Bortolot.