



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Monday, October 5, 2026

Time: 7- 9pm

Location: Lyme Inn

Meeting type: Regular

Present: Alex Bortolot (Chair), John Campbell, Ann Christiano, Meg Lysy, Erin O'Donnell, Alex Nunez, Kim Stern, Nicole Tadlock

Absent: Philip Kinsler, Judy Russell (Library Director)

Public Present: None

Call to order: 7:20pm

1. Public comments- none

2. Approval of September 14, 2026, meeting minutes

- Alex Nunez moved to approve the notes as written; John Campbell seconded. Approved.

3. Reports:

a. Board Chair Report – Alex Bortolot

- Philip Kinsler has resigned from the board. Alex Bortolot shared kind words about the impact that Philip has had on the board in his years of service

b. Treasurer – Alex Nunez

- Reviewed monthly income and expenses

c. Infrastructure Committee – Alex Nunez

- The infrastructure committee met to discuss the amount to be presented in the warrant article

d. Buildings and Grounds – Erin O'Donnell

- Fall clean-up date to be confirmed by Erin O'Donnell
- Erin reported that the hanging sign in front of the library is rotting
- The committee is interested in the First Baptist Church of Hanover's sign and will research its cost and how to acquire one.

e. Policy – Alex Bortolot

- Phillip Kinsler was on the policy committee and now that he has left the board we need to fill this spot. If you are interested, let Alex Bortolot know.

4. Business Requiring Action or Discussion

a. 2027 Library Operating Budget review

- The draft budget applies a 3.5% cost-of-living increase to all library employees; that percentage will be adjusted once the Town of Lyme announces the percentage proposed for town employees
- Library Clerk hours were increased rise from 18 to 20 per week when that position reopened; budget increased accordingly
- The total budget increase is 4.09%
- John Campbell made a motion to add \$150 to Line 11, Library trustee dues and seminars, Meg Lysy seconded. Approved.
- John Campbell made a motion to approve the draft budget up to \$245, 812; Ann Christiano seconded. Approved.

b. Warrant Article – Alex Nunez

- Reviewed the warrant article draft
- Alex N shared that there is a historical justification for the amount of \$30,000 based on the history of the CD amount from 2015-2026

- Another way to determine the amount is to review upcoming building and grounds maintenance, which is harder because we don't have estimates for these ongoing costs
- Ann Christiano asked whether we should ask for more than \$30,000 to account for inflation
- Our balance is currently \$6,650
- Kim Stern made a motion to vote to move forward with the warrant article of \$30,000; Erin O'Donnell seconded. Approved.
- A discussion ensued about how inflation has impacted the amount and an argument that \$30,000 won't cover what we need
- Erin O'Donnell made a motion to increase the warrant to \$40,000 to account for a cumulative price index increase of roughly 40% from 2015 to 2026; Kim Stern seconded. Approved.

c. Board and Library goal-setting for the year ahead

- With Philip Kinsler retired from the board, we need to decide if we want to recruit a new board member before town elections
- Discussed the Board Development Units (BDUs); consider whether to review the question of reducing the size of the board
- The board positions for Kim Stern and Alex Bortolot are up for renewal in 2027 and they need to determine whether they want to start a new term
- NHLTA Annual Conference (2026) topics/recommendations: develop rules and policies regarding how to manage the public at library board meetings and a document about how termination of staff would work. These are clearly not problems today, but before we make another hire, we should have this document in order
- Suggestion that the CFL trustees reach out to trustees at other local libraries to share learning
- Onboarding of new trustees
- Spring CFL staff & board social to welcome newly elected trustees

- Discussion about moving to a different file service other than Google. This could be a technology committee topic, Alex N does not have the time for the technology committee currently
- Improved trustee attendance at CFL events in 2027

5. Friends Update

- The Friends continue to provide generous funding for equipment and amenities for the library

6. Events <https://lymenhlibrary.org/events> and/or see Librarian's Report

Adjournment: 9:11pm - Ann Christiano made a motion to adjourn; Alex Nunez seconded.
Approved

Next Meeting: November 2, 2026