

**Allenstown Public Library
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
59 Main Street
Allenstown, NH 03275**

March 31, 2025

The March 31st meeting of the Allenstown Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:02PM by Jeff Venegas and seconded by Kathleen Pelissier.

Present: Amanda Seibel, Kathleen Pelissier, Betsi Randlett, JoAnne Dufort, and Jeff Venegas

Absent:

Items:

- There were no public comments.
- Kathleen made a motion to accept the 2/18/25 meeting minutes. Jeff seconded. a. Motion passed.
- Reviewed Director's report and items from the agenda.
 - Town website has names adjusted and fixed. Sent baby book dedication sign to Town Clerk and she said she would put up.
 - Betsi won a \$1,000 grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation to pay for kids in grade 1-4 to visit the library in June.
 - The possible elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences will significantly impact us next year if it goes through. Fund ILL and Libby so this will have an impact if this happens.
 - We are partnering with the American Heart Association for their Libraries with Heart Program. They will give us two blood pressure monitors, one for the library and one that patrons can check out. They will also provide educational materials about what the community members should do if they find their blood pressure is high, materials to promote the availability of blood pressure cuffs and a connection to Dartmouth-Hitchcock medical staff. They will also host periodic screening events as well.
 - Who should Betsi speak to at Town Hall about budget money? John is who should be talked to. We are on default budget.
 - Hoopla is doing very well, which should be good, but its pay-per-use. It is quickly becoming much too expensive. We need to talk about options moving forward. Around 185 to 200 a month. Can lower how many people can check out a month, perhaps 3 per person. Can lower the prices that people can select from. Maybe we start with both of these options and see what happens. Betsi will look at what other libraries are doing as well and post. Want to try this before we remove the service. Can we set up a way folks can accept donations to fund this program?
 - Adult craft event from March? Hoping to have in April as Betsi was sick for March.
 - February statistics- Parton Visits- 133, Checkouts- 381, Online checkouts- 291, New Patrons - 2, Crafts- 30, Facebook- people reached- 2,516, Facebook- post engagements-41
- Reviewed Old Business:
 - Did Town Hall get the baby book sign? Was sent! Mandy will see if they have it up when she is sworn in.
 - Any updates on the library sign? Options/quotes? Betsi will reach out again to the contact as a reminder.
 - Mandy elected back in! Anything we need to do here? Mandy needs to go to town hall and be sworn in.

- Friends of the library- trying to see if we can get a volunteer to do this. Can do fundraising and grants we cannot apply for. Kathleen may have someone in mind. Will reach out and see if there is interest in this. Jeff may know someone too. Kathleen and Jeff will both follow up with their contacts.
- Any budget updates? Default? We are in a default budget.
- Goals ideas (carried over but we can get quotes on):
 - o Bricks/pavers
 - o Bathroom painting
 - o Painting in Spring- will ask Highway in March
 - o More books downstairs
 - o Volunteer opportunities
- New Business:
 - o Lots of activity on Facebook on not being able to get to the library as the hours are during their working hours. Would like to see us have some expanded hours on Saturday or after-work hours. People in the town are paying for passes in Pembroke and Hooksett. Can do surveys on Facebook pages, Allenstown Forum, Allenstown Library page, Suncook/Allenstown Community, Town of Allenstown page, Allenstown Police Department. We would have to adjust hours instead of adding based on the default budget. Can we spread coverage out, so Betsi and Gwen are not here at the same time. It also helps protect our funding. Could help boost attendance.
 - Betsi and Gwen will gather the information and word the survey and send out to us for feedback. If we can get it done before the next meeting, we can go over it then.
 - Once approved we can share. Mandy can add comments and share the survey on the pages. Many will look for these posts now saying that a survey is coming.
 - Preliminary post out saying we will be putting out a survey soon.
 - We would keep it open for at least a week if not longer.
 - Once we gather information, we can come back and make a decision and get the word out on the changes. Timeframe to test the hours out etc. and communicate that out.
- The next Library Trustee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, at 5pm.
- Kathleen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:41pm. Jeff Seconded. Motioned passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Seibel