

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

April 22, 2025

The April 22 meeting of the Allenstown Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:08 PM by Kathleen Pelissier and seconded by JoAnne Dufort.

Present: Amanda Seibel, Kathleen Pelissier, Betsi Randlett, JoAnne Dufort

Absent: Jeff Venegas

Items:

- There were no public comments.
- Kathleen made a motion to accept the 3/31/25 meeting minutes. JoAnne seconded. Motion passed.
- Reviewed Director's report and items from the agenda.
 - \$10,000 sustainable and resilient New England Libraries Grant
 - \$500 donation for summer reading for Brady Sullivan 25 Canal Street Apartments
 - Up to \$400 from the Telephone Pioneers to sponsor Lindsey and her Puppet Pals this summer
 - \$3,360 in donations for the Summer Reading and our summer raffle
 - Have won a \$10,000 grant to repair the library parking lot. Thank you, JoAnne, for your letter of support. This money is to repair parking lot and plant native grasses that would help with water collecting. Tear up and relevel. Have a quote from Allenstown Aggregate. Grant gave 3 weeks notice to get it in. Quote came in around \$7,000 and some aside from incidentals. If they run over we can also look at capital reserve account.
 - We've been chosen for Shaw's Give back where it counts program in May.
 - Betsi has given the trustees a design for the new sign. Betsi likes it but feels it needs something. Feels a little daycare like and would like to see it more adult-ish.
 - Should be getting our budget money this week.
 - Highway thinks they can paint the library this summer.
 - The Town Administrator said we may encumber our unused budget funds with a contract for the following year in order to not have money go back to town.
 - Adult craft event is happening this Saturday, April 26!
 - March statistics- Parton Visits- 164, Checkouts- 410, Online checkouts- 294, New Patrons - 13, Crafts- 47, Facebook- people reached- 1,211, Facebook- post engagements-25
- Reviewed Old Business:
- Library hours:
 - Betsi and Gwen will gather information on what hours could work for them, 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. This is preferred.
 - o Once approved we can share. Mandy can add comments and share the survey on the pages. Mandy replied to these posts.
 - o Preliminary post out saying we will be putting out a survey soon. Did this get published? No, but we can share the survey on what hours we are considering for the Fall. We would keep it open for at least a week if not longer.
 - o Kathleen has had a few people ask why we are not cutting library to help with budget deficit. Shared she was a library trustee.

- o Cannot imagine changing hours during summer reading. Worry about changing during. Need two people for support during programming.
- o September would be easier for new hours. Splitting shifts is hard if covering Gwen's job, Betsi has to cover.
- o Can we do a post about the new books as they come in? In that post can we also ask suggestions for what folks may want to have for books in the library?
- o Talked about weekend coverage with Gwen, too late notice for her on some plans that are already occurring. In the Fall, what would they like to do on the weekends? Wasn't sure if it should be 3 or 4 hours on the weekends. Maybe start with 3 and do some advertising so that folks know we are open on weekends. Monday could be 11-7pm as well in the Fall (September 8). First Saturday in September we could start hours. Start getting the word out now would be good. Maybe a survey on the new hours for Fall and how they may feel about them starting in the Fall on the Allentown Library page. We also have Pembroke people come to our library as well.
- 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 and Jeff may have someone in mind. Will reach out and see if there is interest in this. Kathleen needs to reach out to her contact and see if Jeff has.
- Casella is \$35 a month for trash pick-up as we will need trash pickup for the library. Betsi going to arrange this.
- Goals ideas (carried over but we can get quotes on):
 - o Bricks/pavers
 - o Bathroom painting
 - o More books downstairs
 - o Volunteer opportunities
- New Business:
- The next Library Trustee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, at 5pm.
- Kathleen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:36pm. JoAnne Seconded. Motioned passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Seibel