



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
May 15, 2025
Newport Public Library
300 Spring Street, Newport, Rhode Island 02840

In Attendance

Board: Debbie Bailey, Peter Baylor, Kristie Gardiner, Liz Marchi, Charlotte Marshall, Don O'Brien, Edwina Sebest, Daniel Tougas;

Excused: Merideth Bonvino, Alan Ridnour;

NPL Staff: Joseph Logue, Jim Mass, Alexandra Calandro;

For the Friends: Pat Heller.

Call to Order & Determination of a Quorum

Ms. Sebest called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. A quorum was determined at 4:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda

The Board unanimously agreed to remove #10 from the May agenda and add this item to the June agenda instead.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Ms. Bailey made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes with no additions or amendments.

Ms. Marshall seconded the motion and the Trustees unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

Mr. Mass reported that the roofing project will be complete in five days; however, this estimation is weather dependent. The library has a new generator and tariffs increased the price of this project.

Mr. Mass answered a few questions and thanked the Board for their support in these large projects.

Friends of the Newport Library Report

Ms. Heller reported that The Friends began their membership drive this month and that it is off to a good start. The summer sale is scheduled for July 10 through July 18th. The Friends are very close to achieving 1 million dollars in donations to the Library since their inception in July of 1972. They are hoping to make their annual donation early this year so they can achieve the milestone this summer. They are also working with Joe to see how they can assist the Library with the upcoming New England Library Association Conference in October.

Library Director's Report

Mr. Logue reported that the Roof is on the city's agenda for their next meeting and that we should be hearing about the Champlain Grant after Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Logue stated that he is thinking of a special way to acknowledge The Friends accomplishment of donating 1 million dollars.

The fencing that currently runs through Aquidneck Park is due to a project to upgrade the gravel pathway to a cement sidewalk. The speakers for the NELA conference are all set and secured. Due to the large projects Mr. Mass has undertaken, The Board unanimously agreed to give him a bonus for his efforts. Mr. Baylor suggested \$3,000 and made a motion to approve, which Ms. Marshall seconded, and The Board unanimously approved.

The two new Board Members, Ms. Marchi and Mr. Tougas, were briefly introduced. Both individuals are very active in the community of Newport. Ms. Marchi previously worked at the Preservation Society and Mr. Tougas is currently at Bank Newport. Ms Sebest asked for a motion to welcome them as official members, Mr. Baylor made a motion, which Ms. Marshall seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment

Business being concluded Ms. Sebest asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Baylor made a motion, Ms. Marshall seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 5:06 PM.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexandra Calandro
Administrative Assistant
May 15, 2025