

North Hampton Public Library - Board of Trustees
Public Meeting Minutes
North Hampton Town Hall
237 Atlantic Ave
North Hampton, NH
Wednesday, October 14, 2026 6:30 PM

Chair:	Susan Leonardi	Secretary:	Jacqueline Brandt
Treasurer:	Kathleen Kilgore	Library Director:	Liz Herold

1. Call to Order by the Chair
meeting called to order by: K. Kilgore at 6:30 pm pledge of allegiance immediately followed.
2. Administrative
 - 2.1. Approval of prior meeting minutes. Minutes of last trustees meeting reviewed. Motion to approve minutes of September 9, 2026 as presented made by K. Kilgore seconded by J. Brandt. Vote 2-0 motion passes.

- 2.2. **Library Reports**
Facilities

- Outdoor furniture for kids delivered
- Book drop and OPAC stand for youth area delivered

Operations

- High Demand Adult Books include *Threshing Day* by Rebecca Yarros, *The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett, *Under Story* by Chole Benjamin
- Most circulated adult book in August *Whistler* by Ann Patchett,
- Library programs 40, Drop-in room use 110 , Room reservations 28
- 2,016 visitors in September 2026
- Museum passes used 16 in September
- Circulation total for September (digital and physical) 3,550
- Library will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day holiday, closing early Wed, Nov. 25 and closed Thursday, November 26 for Thanksgiving holiday

Financial

- Operating account ending balance \$ 44,687.20
- Non-appropriated account ending balance \$ 70,409.17
- Investment account 67 ending balance \$ TBD
- Investment account 90 ending balance \$ TBD

Staff

- Will be holding a staff meeting end of November/Beginning of December. Three new staff. Going well with all.

Programs

- Recurring programs include Drop-In Monday Morning Puzzles 10am-12pm, Tech. Tuesdays (drop-in tech help at 1pm), Caregiver's Cafe facilitated by Cornerstone VNA -2nd and 4th Wednesday 10:30am, Book to film Fridays at 12pm

- Current art exhibit Coastal Living by Aaron Kane
- Halloween Movie : Carrie on Tuesday, Oct 27 at 5:30pm
- Halloween Trivia on Thursday, October 29 at 6pm
- 12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State presented by Prof. Robert Goodby on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 6:30pm
- Seacoast Memory Cafe Wednesday, Nov 4 at 2pm
- Broom Making Workshop on Saturday, November 7 at 11:30am
- American Mah Jongg class will be held most Thursdays at 1pm beginning October 22

2.3. **Youth report**

Submitted by: Katy Wuerker, Youth Librarian

This September was a weird one as Labor Day was late this year, so we all felt a bit off kilter with an "extra" week off some of our regular storytimes, but it all worked out in the end. In fact, we offered five more storytimes (compared to last September 2025) and had 51 more people enter the library to attend them. That is a win!

It was our first month without Kai but by mid-month we had Deon start in that position, so overall it was a quick turn around. Deon is doing really well, and we look forward to her starting a regular Tuesday D&D drop-in group for the teens.

We were lucky to have the Portsmouth Juicery offer to do their first ever popsicle making event here at our library! They had heard from their staff and clothes what a great area and library we were and wanted to start with us. We had 16 folks drop-in between 3 and 4pm on September 22nd, and we all had a tasty good time. We are honored to have had such a great reputation out there as a library and as a community in general.

Overall, 372 patrons participated in 16 youth events in September 2026:

Program Age Group	# of Programs	# of Participants
Children's (Babies through 4th grade)	17	168
Teen (5th through 12th grade)	2	1
All Ages Youth Programs	3	1
Other Youth Events	2	24
September 2026 Youth Totals	24	194

There is a story time or playtime every day of the week to meet community demand. All are very well attended.

2.4. **Adult Programing Report**

September 2026 Adult Programming Report

Prepared by Emily Dolan

Ongoing Programs:

Fall is here at NHPL! For our ongoing offerings, we saw an almost identical amount of attendees for our programming. This shows me that when we can get a group together for a particular program, we are able to retain them. This month saw the beginning of our Book-to-Film Fridays, where we show a movie based upon a book. It has seen similar success as our previous movie offerings, telling me that

theme doesn't seem to matter, just that we are at least offering one movie a week (whether folks show or not).

One very exciting thing that I was able to secure as an ongoing event starting this October, is American Mah Jongg! A local couple is going to teach beginner Mah Jongg and host game time every Thursday... for free! We are super excited and grateful for their generosity in donating their time to this highly sought after program. As we begin to look into the New Year, Liz and I are workshopping a Silent Book Club Night at NHPL. One night a month we hope to have silent hours in the library where folks can come in and read anything they want for a dedicated time in a dedicated space. Following the reading time, we hope to have the Program Room open so that folks can mingle and talk about books!

One-Off Adult Programs:

In addition to our ongoing programs, one-off adult programs were slow this month, save for the Seacoast Memory Cafe. This event saw 11 attendees and was hosted by a North Hampton memory change professional. After surveying the group, we found that only 2 folks were from North Hampton who attended. In order to best stretch the adult programming budget, we may ask the Friends to sponsor this program as it is successful (so far), but is more of a general Seacoast community event rather than just North Hampton based.

Looking into the winter and New Year, we hope to create a survey for patrons so that we can get a better idea of what patrons would like to see in terms of programming—for both adults and youth. We hope to have this prepared in time for the community newsletter that will go out in the early New Year. Also, I am hoping to start a Young Adults (18-35 years old ish) meet up group between us and other Seacoast libraries. The details are sparse at this point, but I hope to have more details next month!

Upcoming Programs:

- Seacoast Memory Cafe: 10/7 @ 2p
- A Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing: 10/7 @ 5:30p
- American Mah Jongg: starting 10/22 and running every Thur @ 1p
- Halloween Movie Mania - Carrie: 10/27 @ 5:30p
- Halloween Double Feature - Terrifying Trivia: 10/29 @ 6p

Program Type	# of Programs	# of Attendees
Ongoing Programs	17	49
One-Off / "Special" Programs	3	16
Total	20	65

2.5. Financial Reports

Library Director Liz Herald presented the financial reports. Investment reports to come. Currently at 24% of budget spent this year. Right on track.

Motion made to accept the reports as presented by J. Brandt, seconded by K. Kilgore. Vote 2-0 motion passes.

3. Old Business

3.1. Budget FY2028

Updated numbers for the HealthTrust are 15.7% increase. Resulting in a 4.3% overall \$22,670. Includes Health and Dental, 3.5% COLA and accounting for water and electricity increases. Funds included for maintenance cost increases. Meeting Monday at 6:30 pm with budget committee.

3.2. Meeting date with Selectboard

Currently planned for prior to the October 26 meeting. Reviewing the MOU and just updating to this year's version. Time to be announced. Approximately between 5:30pm and 6:30pm range.

3.3. Hampton Rotary follow up

Liz touched base with David at the Rotary. Dialog has been established and the appropriate channels have been established for future funds. The rotary is in favor of literacy programs.

4. New Business

4.1. November Meeting Date

4 November 2026 at 6:30 pm. Pending S. Leonardi input, check with Joh Salvastano regarding taping.

4.2. Upcoming budget meeting dates

19 October 2026, 6:30 pm organizational meeting and to review the default budget. Liz does an excellent presentation on the usage of the library. Next meeting 30 November, 6:30 pm. with another in December.

5. Friends update

Met yesterday Amy Chote and Racheal Robe co-chairs for another year. Tuesday November 10. The Medicine of Mind, Body and Spirit presented by Angela Lambert, a licensed neuropathic doctor. They will meet again in December second Tuesday of the month at the library at 10:00 am.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

The Board reserves the right to act on any item related to the prudential administration of the library's affairs, which circumstances may require.

K. Kilgore commented on how the library appears and has come into its own. Vibrant staff.

8. Next Meeting/Adjournment

Next meeting November 4, Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm!