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3:07 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 9, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Attendees: Anne Mueller; Gwen Wirger, Bob Booz, Maya Liss, Eric Infeld, Lynn Johnson, Sarah Lauren Redfield, Director
Absent: Ann Doyle, Elizabeth Merliss

Other: Christian Godbout, Martin Anderson

I. Public Comments/Communications – Martin Anderson - Introduced himself as Cochair of charter revision commission; attended meeting after the communications from the Board to both the commission and to the Public. Martin said he has been a supporter of the library for years; he has done since research - reading articles and information from the American Library Association (ALA) and realizes the challenges libraries have been facing; Martin said that the commission understands the fears and is not their intent to take over; he and Christian wanted to see if there were questions or amplifications they could provide in addition to an email sent in reply to documents the Library Board had put together. Martin said say A redline draft has been published and he wanted to be able sure we knew this was a draft. The commission will take in all the information and will pull together another draft too present to the Board of Selectman (BOS). The BOS will then pull together the final document that will be presented at referendum planned for 11/2026. Martin noted the response that had been sent and wants to make sure we received it and to say that no harm was meant. Martin spoke about statutory guardrails in place for Libraries and how that makes the library unique within the town. Nothing bad being attempted. Powers of town, property – looking for/intent “provide a predictably way to close buildings” not meant to target the library Maya spoke saying that the Board does not think there was ill intent. Bob then spoke providing some history since the commission was formed, the lack of ability to provide input to the commission (no follow-up from the initial survey and the interview with the Library Director), and how library has operated since the 1977 Charter. Several other Board members spoke and asked questions about the statutes and compared to the draft charter document. After public comment/communications was complete Martin and Christian left the meeting.

II. Minutes

- A. Monthly Meeting, May 12, 2026 – **Motion made by Bob Booz to accept the minutes with minor revisions seconded Lynn Johnson.** Approved unanimously. Sarah Robertson abstains as she was absent from last meeting.
- B. Special Meeting, May 28, 2026 – deferred to July meeting

III. Financial Reports

- A. Board Managed Funds – Sarah Robertson reviewed the report – all in line as expected. Sarah and Board talked about the timing of the report because of how the account was set up. She is working with the bank to see how this can be resolved.
- B. Library Operational Funds Director reviews and accounts on track or where expected. Question came up about the funds remaining for landscaping – specifically about the gardens and the boxwoods; Director said there was still an invoice still out there – after discussion on the boxwoods and a boxwood disease that has been found locally, feeling of the Board is will have Chris finish what he does and will worry about boxwoods later.

IV . Library Director's Report - overall, May is typically a slower month and year over year, overall circulation remained steady. Visitor traffic continued to increase, with gate count rising 7% compared to last year – believe it was primarily due to increased program attendance. Director reviewed how the gate count is captured with the sensor in the front foyer. Board of Finance has approved funding for the new boiler project and upcoming town meeting will vote on moving funds. The technology upgrades installed by LION and are complete with the new computers for staff and updated public computers in place.

V . New Business

- A. Strategic Plan cohort - We were selected to be part of the next Strategic Planning Cohort led by Ellen Paul and Maureen Sullivan. The other libraries selected for the cohort are Avon, Cheshire, Stratford, West Haven, and Weston. The cohort's first meeting is July 23. **Motion made by Bob Booz to allocate the funds needed to be part of the Strategic Planning Cohort. Anne Mueller seconded.** Brief discussion reviewing what excited at prior Board meeting about the Strategic Planning Cohort, possible Board member involvement, and whether it had been the intent of the Board to fund this as the way we would move forward to complete the next Strategic Plan for the Library. Question was called and unanimously approved.
- B. Building and Grounds – see above under operational funds for discussion on boxwoods.
- C. Special Town Meeting on June 22, 2026 – Maya communicated that the Town meeting for the move of funds for the new boilers was on June 22, and requested as many huh the Board members that could attend do.
- D. Outside lighting – Town Facilities Manager (Charlie)has offer to pay for the replacement of the landscape lighting system. Board asked that Director let Charlie know about the Boxwoods and possible removal as that could impact the replacement. .

VI. Old Business

- A. Town Charter – further discussion on next steps for the Board and its members for the upcoming public meeting the commission is having. Various Board members discussed their presentations to the Commission and the public and their communications with members of the public

VII. General Discussion – none

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Eric J Infeld
Secretary