

NH Library Trustee

WINTER 2024-2025

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The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

www.NHLTA.org

The 2024 NHLTA Award Winners

The past year has been a busy one for the **Nashua Public Library**, the **NHLTA Large Library of the Year**! The library collaborated with community organizations by serving as the location of several major city events. In September, the library hosted Nashua's annual Multicultural Festival, celebrating Nashua's increasing diversity with a variety of food trucks, music, dance, and art. The second annual Nashua Sustainability Fair took place at the library in April with an EV (electric vehicle) showcase, tours of the neighboring Jackson Falls dam, lawn games, food trucks, soil screening; more than 20 local nonprofit organizations participated. The library's parking lot serves as the site for Nashua's Pride celebration each June, hosted by Pride Nashua. The library offers access to facilities, joins in marching in the parade, and maintains a booth at the festival offering free buttons, book-marks and seeds..

The library also collaborated with Mount Pleasant Elementary School to distribute books and literacy-focused programming under a Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) grant. In addition, the hugely popular Nashua Goes Back to School event brought educators and students together on the library plaza, sending students home with much-needed supplies for the new school year.



The United Way's annual Volunteer Fair filled the library's theater and Chandler Wing with more than 40 local nonprofits.

In addition to the local partnerships, the library's plaza renovation project is part of the city's Imagine Nashua plan that focuses on equity, resilience, and climate protection. Former Congresswoman Annie Kuster secured \$4.5M in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds for the transformation of the library's outdoor plaza into a welcoming, accessible, and sustainable outdoor space that will include play space, performance space, reading space, a demonstration garden, seating, and bicycle racks. The library hosted former Congresswoman Kuster and Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess on-site to discuss and walk through the concept design for the renovation.

The library extended its Sunday hours to better align with the Nashua Farmer's Market that takes place Sundays in the adjacent parking lot. City residents can shop for fresh and affordable local

LEFT TO RIGHT: Nashua Library Director Jennifer McCormack; Trustee Chair Linda Laflamme; NHLTA Board Member Jeanne Palleiko.

INSIDE

- 2** From the President
- 3** Collective Care Needed
McKay Scholarship
2025 Deadlines
- 8** Regional Gatherings
- 9** 2025 Lillian Edelmann Fund Grant
Michael York Honored
- 10** Legal Q&A
- 11** Mont Vernon Library Breaks Ground



Nashua Public Library

Continued on page 4



Marcia McLaughlin
NHLTA President

Winter 2025

NHLTA Helps Trustees; *Now NHLTA Needs Your Help!*

In many of the NHLTA newsletter articles I perused to prepare for this article the president's article focused on how trustees can promote their libraries, advocate for their budget and help their libraries move forward. It is now my opportunity to promote, advocate for and help to move NHLTA forward.

Very often there is a "soft" mention in the newsletter that NHLTA is looking for people who might be interested in serving on the board. In this column I am going to go beyond a "soft" mention. In order for NHLTA to continue as a viable entity to assist you in your job as a trustee we need people to step up and come along side to build the board back up to its full number.

If you are not aware, the NHLTA board membership is 100% volunteer. NHLTA does contract with an outside organization to do some tasks, yet the day-to-day functioning is shouldered by those volunteers. As of this writing the number of board members has shrunk to nine of a possible fifteen. People come and go on the board as life changes occur, demands of their jobs increase, or they find it's time to put their volunteer efforts elsewhere.

The time requirement is not great. Our monthly board meetings are held via Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month and usually last 1½ hours or less. There are several committees on which members serve – Governance, Communication, Executive and Education – which also meet via Zoom, with only the Education Committee meeting monthly. The others meet on an as needed basis, again via Zoom.

If you have a passion for New Hampshire and its libraries, would like to get to know and work with other trustees in the state and have the heart of a volunteer, please contact me at m.mclaughlin@nhlta.org so that we can talk about your interest and how it would fit with NHLTA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia".

Marcia

m.mclaughlin@nhlta.org

As of this writing
the number of
board members
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fifteen.

“Collective Care” May Be What’s Needed in Your Library

In 2019, *Harvard Business Review* published an article titled, “Managers, You’re More Intimidating Than You Think” that both director and trustee boards might find interesting to think about. Authors Megan Reits and John Higgins encourage readers to “consider the labels (meaning job titles) that apply” and to consider “what intimidation factors” come with that professional title. They also suggest that managers should “Aim to create a culture of psychological safety where employees can be honest about bad news.” The complete article may be found at www.physician-leaders.org/articles/managers-more-intimidating.

Recently, in partnership with the New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA), the State Library worked to bring Cassie Gillespie, a licensed clinical social worker, to speak at the NHLA Fall Business meeting in Plymouth. Cassie has done extensive work within several different professions around the concept of psychological safety in the workplace and the key role it plays in preventing stress and burnout.

One of her presentation slides introduces the following language from the Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety: “Workplace stress... is the harmful physical and emotional responses that can happen when there is a conflict between job demands on the employee and the amount of control an employee has over meeting these demands. In general, the combination of high demands in a job and a low amount of control over the situation can lead to stress.”

Cassie also cited a quote from John Keister who, along with his wife Beth, is co-owner of a library and nonprofit executive search firm, which states, “[T]he expectations for directors have changed dramatically in the last year alone. ‘It used to be that to become a library director, it was also a role of keeping the lights on and books on the shelf,’” Keister says. “Now the public library director is an ambassador of the library to a community. You have to be politically savvy now to be an effective library leader.”

Cassie’s presentation suggested that some of the challenges facing library professionals are beyond the scope of what can be addressed with “self-care.”

She introduced the concept of “collective care” in the workplace. This is a kind of care that fosters psychological safety and creates team or organizational resiliency.

If any of this resonates as something that is relevant and/or could be helpful within your library, it is my hope that this article can be a starting point for conversations amongst trustees and library staff. And as always, please reach out if we can offer more information about engaging in this kind of discussion. Cassie’s slides are available upon request by emailing pastpresident@nhlibraries.org. We are hopeful we can continue to work with and learn more from her in the future.



Mindy Atwood

McKay Scholarship Awards: 2025 Deadlines

NHLTA is pleased to announce that Natalie Moser received the \$1,000 Mildred McKay Scholarship for the Spring 2025 term. Natalie is a Technical Services Librarian at Goffstown Public Library and is working towards her MLIS at Valdosta State University. Scholarships are awarded for graduate courses (e.g., MLS and MLIS courses, etc.), library conferences (including NHLTA’s 2025 Annual Conference) and library workshops.

Applications for Summer 2025 graduate courses must be received by May 1, 2025; the Fall deadline is July 1 and the deadline for the 2026 Spring semester is November 1. Applications for library conferences and workshops should be submitted approximately one month before the event. Virtual courses, conferences and workshops are eligible for scholarship awards.

Criteria for scholarship eligibility and a scholarship application can be found on NHLTA’s website, www.nhlta.org. Past McKay scholarship recipients and past no-award applicants may apply again for a scholarship on that next course, conference or workshop.

Mildred P. McKay was New Hampshire State Librarian, 1942-1964. NHLTA established the Mildred P. McKay Library Scholarship Fund in 1965 with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.



The 2024 NHLTA Award Winners

Continued from page 1

produce meals, and treats at the Farmers Market in the library parking lot, then head inside the library to watch the free Sunday movie, explore new book arrivals, create in the Teen Room, play in the Children's Room, or check out the latest exhibit in the Art Gallery.

The reference staff launched an appointment-scheduling feature to provide the community with easier access to personalized technology help. No library card is required, so this service is truly accessible to all. A refreshed website provides a more intuitive, accessible, and simple online hub of library information and resources that serves more than 1000 visitors each month. The library also launched text notifications, enabling patrons to receive important information faster and more conveniently.

In April, Mayor Donchess proclaimed April 9 National Library Workers Day to recognize the library staff in serving more than 187,000 customers, circulating 350,000 materials, answering 18,000 reference questions, and running 700 programs in the past fiscal year. The passionately supportive Friends of the Library volunteers received the Gate City Light Award, an annual award that recognizes significant volunteer contributions to the residents of Nashua.

The Nashua Public Library Board of Trustees takes great pride in the library staff and their commitment to the community they serve. Through protracted (but successful) union contract negotiations in 2024, the staff's diligence, professionalism, effort, and creativity never flagged. This past year has been filled with innovation, collaboration, and excellence. NHLTA board member Jeanne Palleiko presented the library with its well-deserved award on October 29, during a celebration that included tours of the library.

Since 1901, the **Meredith Public Library** has been a cornerstone on Meredith's Main Street. In 2011, a routine safety inspection found many glaring compliance issues with the building. The citizens of Meredith were adamant: they wanted the library to stay in the beloved historic building. The library's multi-million dollar renovation and



expansion project passed at the 2020 Town Meeting with 92% of those in attendance voting in the affirmative! It would be renovated with existing hardwood floors restored, two original fireplaces converted to propane, a second-floor historic room converted to a small meeting room, and a municipal parking lot.

As part of the expansion, a Maker Space was added. Upscale sewing/embroidery machines, a 3D printer and scanner, a Glowforge laser engraver, digital conversion equipment, iPads, a large-scale printer, and a Cricut became available and staff teach patrons how to use them. The library partnered with The Lakes Center of the Arts (LCA) to bring artists to the Maker Space to teach classes

NHLTA Board Member Rosemary D'Arcy presents Meredith Library Director Erin Apostolos with the Small Library of the Year Award.



including water color, collage, calligraphy and more. This partnership was such a positive experience, the LCA invited the Library Director to speak at their conference with over 90 artists attending.

The library also partners with the Winnepesaukee Playhouse. In response to antisemitic graffiti found in a neighboring community, the Playhouse hosted the library for “An Evening of Song, Film and Discussion” focusing on anti-Semitism. The Playhouse performed two numbers from *Fiddler on the Roof*, the library showed the documentary *I’m Still Here* which focuses on diaries kept by children and teens during the Holocaust, and then hosted a panel discussion with representatives from NH Humanities and the Jewish Federation of NH. The response was so positive that the library applied for and was awarded a grant from the American Holocaust Memorial and Museum to bring the traveling Americans and the Holocaust exhibit to Meredith in Summer 2025. The library will be partnering with local schools to bring tours of the exhibit to the library.

The library worked with local veteran’s group, Humble Grunt Work, to bring a memorial for all veterans to the library’s front lawn. When the sound system broke down during its dedication, the large group of attendees spontaneously broke into singing the National Anthem, moving nearly everyone to tears.

A teen librarian was hired to address concerns about the underserved teen population and to bring high energy and fresh ideas to the library. In less than a month, a school bus stop was placed in front of the library. In May 2023, 13 teens attended library events; in May 2024 that number rose to 250!

The library has also developed programs to reach seniors. The library’s tech director provides tech assistance at the Town’s Senior Center twice per month. He also offers a monthly computer club at the library and provides one-on-one assistance daily.

None of this would be possible without the support of the Friends of the Meredith Library. With over 100 members, the Friends sponsor all of the library’s events. They show up in force at town meetings and work tirelessly to send quality books to communities devastated by natural disasters or to towns in countries that lack any sort of library at all.

The Meredith Public Library truly is something special. Staff are engaged and love what they do, town and school officials enthusiastically support

the library’s services, teens and seniors happily call the library “home” and community groups partner with the library to help improve services and technology in town. On Saturday, November 23, a large crowd turned out to watch as NHLTA board member Rosemary D’Arcy presented Library Director Erin Apostolos with the award for NHLTA Small Library of the Year.



In 1918, Jane Tracy, long-time summer resident of New London, purchased The Morgan Homestead on the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets with the intention of giving the town a library and community center. However, the building served briefly as New London’s first hospital until 1923, when a new hospital was completed and plans for the library could proceed. Mrs. Tracy engaged the Boston architectural firm Strickland, Blodgett and Law to design the interior of the building, and in 1926 she hired renowned Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects of Brookline, Massachusetts, to design and plant the grounds.

The resulting landscape was extraordinarily beautiful. Below the terrace on the south side was a square garden surrounded by lilac bushes of seven varieties. Grass paths surrounded four “L” shaped beds of perennial and annual flowers. In the center was a stone-lined wading pool with five bronze bubbling flowers on the surface of the water. Old photos show two latticework-raised arbors near the original library building.

Continued on next page

Special Contribution Award – Judy Butler, President of the Board of Directors of the Garden at Tracy Library, and Jeanne Palleiko, NHLTA Board Member.

The 2024 NHLTA Award Winners

Continued from previous page

Below the terrace on the north side was a rose garden containing nearly 200 plants. The southern and western boundaries were marked by stone walls. Along these edges were curved beds of trees and flowering shrubs interspersed with flowers.

In 1928, knowing that the garden would require financial and maintenance support, Mrs. Tracy assisted in the formation of the New London Garden Club, whose purpose would be to maintain the garden. Unfortunately, support was not provided consistently over the years. The membership of the Garden Club was small, their town beautification projects increased, and the library garden gradually deteriorated. By the 1990's, all that remained of the original garden were some trees and shrubs. Realizing that the structure of the garden was still visible, members of the Garden Club began to research its history. A letter from Olmsted Brothers found at the library led to contacting The Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts, and it was discovered that the original plan and plant lists of the garden were still on file.

This inspired the New London Garden Club to approach the Tracy Library Trustees about the possibility of restoring the garden to its original splendor. Together they raised over \$100,000 in private donations and a devoted group of volunteers oversaw the complete restoration of plant beds and lawns, and a new stone retaining wall.

In 2008, the Community Garden at Tracy Library was designated as a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, and a Board of Directors was set up to oversee the garden. Since then, volunteers from the New London Garden Club and members of the community have maintained the garden, working under the direction of a professional gardener. In September 2016, the name of the garden was changed from Community Garden at Tracy Library to Garden at Tracy Library. The number of visitors to the garden increased during COVID-19 as people of all ages sought an outdoor retreat. The garden is enjoyed by the public as a place to stroll or relax on one of the many benches. It is also a tranquil haven for art classes, and for children during the library's summer reading program. It is still used by parents and children learning about plants and insects as well as book readers and meditators. Other organizations in the community have taken advantage of its beauty also. The New London

Known as the "New London Hidden Gem," **the Garden at Tracy Library** is truly a wonder with a long and interesting history. This year it is the recipient of the **Special Library Service Contribution Award**.



Playhouse's interns perform, the Center for the Arts displays their members' works and the Tracy Library's children's program uses the lawn.

Jane Tracy's vision of a garden to be enjoyed by the community has been realized because of the help of generous donors and hard-working gardeners. The garden flowers have gotten more vibrant with more locally grown varieties and a great deal of attention has been paid to the rose garden, Ellen's Garden (near the parking lot), the woodland gardens surrounding the back lawn, and the Kelsey Garden in the upper area near the children's section window. Garden guides with plant lists are located on the information board near the entrance. A virtual tour may be found at gardenattracy.org.

The contribution the garden gives to the Tracy Library is certainly a special one; at a volunteer luncheon on October 28, NHLTA board member Jeanne Palleiko presented the Garden at Tracy Library with its well-deserved award.

The Gafney Library serves the towns of Wakefield and Brookfield. For the past 25 years, **NHLTA Library Director of the Year Beryl Donovan** has been its director. According to the trustees, Beryl's visionary approach has not only transformed the library but also significantly enhanced its role within the community.

During her tenure Beryl oversaw a major expansion which doubled the size of the library: working with the trustees on fundraising to finance the project (\$1.7 million was raised from private funds!); creating safe and welcoming spaces for teens and children; upgrading the library's technology; expanding library services to meet the needs of its rural community; and collaborating with local businesses, artists and other organizations to enhance the vibrancy and sustainability of the library. Through the expansion, she created a welcoming, inclusive space for gathering which encouraged more patrons to visit. She also hired the first male librarian at the Gafney Library in 100 years.

Over the years, Beryl launched Digital Literacy Workshops, Maker Spaces, cultural and educational events, a Teen Safe Space and an Adult Learning Center which offers career counseling and help with resume writing, citizenship assistance, AARP tax preparation and internet safety tips for senior citizens. More than 3000 people have benefited from the literacy programs over the past 25 years! The Gafney



Library also partners with the Moose Mountain Seed Savers to offer a free seed exchange program.

Beryl has formed strong partnerships with community organizations such as the Wakefield Food Pantry, the Greater Wakefield Resource Center and, of course, the Friends of the Gafney Library which supports the library through book sales and a holiday wreath program. Thanks to serving two towns, Beryl attends two Select Boards' meetings to share library statistics, program information and funding needs to provide a better understanding of the financial operations and the impact the Gafney Library has on our rural communities.

Under her leadership, library patronage has increased significantly, and the library has received accolades for its innovative programs and community contributions. Beryl's work has set a benchmark for small library excellence and serves as an inspiration for other small libraries to follow in her footsteps.

But in 2023, when Wakefield residents voted down the town's budget which caused an \$800,000 shortfall, it put the library's funding at risk. Worried that the library might have to shut its doors for a year, Beryl mobilized supporters who came out in force to support the library. The town compromised and though the library's budget was cut (as were those of other departments in town), it was able to stay open.

The Gafney trustees will continue to be grateful for Beryl's performance and leadership as she helped to recruit and train her successor! On November 21, the trustees, staff and community applauded as NHLTA board member Brodie Deshaies presented Beryl with her award.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Gafney Library Trustee President Dick DesRoches, honoree Beryl Donovan, NHLTA Board Member Brodie Deshaies and Gafney Library Director Amy Swanson.

NHLTA Regional Gatherings

Ossipee Public Library

On Saturday, October 5, approximately 25 people gathered at the **Ossipee Public Library** for a lively discussion led by NHLTA board members Rosemary D'Arcy, Anne Chant and Ossipee trustee Pat Pustell.



Ossipee Public Library

All aspects of fundraising were discussed, from planned giving – trustees from the Freedom Library recommended keeping a file of each bequest received – to making sure trustees have a donation policy in place which is reviewed annually. Several libraries have foundations which are 501c3 organizations to help with capital campaigns and larger projects. Amounts less than \$5000 can be accepted at a public hearing during regular trustee meetings; amounts of \$5,000 and larger must be accepted during a separate public hearing which has previously announced to the public.

Right-to-Know regulations was a popular topic. Since trustees are elected officials, everything they do is public. Library issues should not be discussed privately and all decisions should be made during public meetings. Some attendees advised using a library email for library business in order to keep it separate from a private email account. The main reasons to enter non-public sessions are in order to protect reputations and confidentiality.

Several asked if NHLTA could do a Zoom workshop on Right-to-Know issues that could be recorded and accessible on the website.

Director evaluations were also brought up. These should be done annually with a set of goals that is clear, measurable and achievable. It can be useful to have

the staff evaluate the director, although it can be difficult for feedback to remain anonymous. When hiring a director, it is strongly recommended that a contract is written with a time frame, perhaps for one or two years at the start of employment. It is a good idea to have a staff

member on the hiring committee; another suggestion was to survey the town to see what patrons would like to have in the library.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were mentioned – these are agreements between the library and the Select Board which explain the responsibility of each board.

Wadleigh Memorial Library

Nearly 30 people attended a gathering at the **Wadleigh Memorial Library in Milford** on October 22 which was facilitated by Wadleigh trustee Janet Hromjak and NHLTA board member Connie Kirwin.

Discussion topics included:

Meeting agendas and protocols: An agenda serves as both a public notice and a meeting schedule and should be posted at two places that can be accessed by the public. Non-public sessions (and the reason for them) need to be included on the

agenda. Regarding public speaking at a meeting, it is best to place a time limit on how long someone can speak (this should be stated on the agenda). Library trustee meetings are open to the public, but the board does not have to allow the public to speak. If it is a public hearing outside a regular trustee meeting, the public does have a right to speak and address the board. It is important when selecting a chair, that that person be able to manage meetings.

Community surveys and feasibility studies: Wadleigh Library recently used the Strong Resource Group based in Portsmouth (strongresourcegroup.com) in order to learn what folks thought of the library, its value to the community, and if there was any appetite for having a capital campaign. Goffstown Public Library and Portsmouth are listed as clients. Brookline Public Library and the Mansfield Library in Temple are also considering doing a study.

Library policies: Ideally, policies get reviewed yearly. When creating new ones, it is a good idea to make certain it doesn't conflict with state laws. Policies are usually posted on the library website so they are accessible to the public. Recommended policies include library usage and food and drink in the library.



Wadleigh Memorial Library

PHOTO: SHIRLEY WILSON

Plan Now to Attend!

NHLTA Annual Conference

Thursday, May 1, 2025

DoubleTree Downtown, Manchester

TRUSTEES UNLEASHED: THE MUST-HAVE INFO!



Our keynote speaker **Kelly Jensen** has been writing about book censorship for nearly a decade. She is nationally recognized for her anti-censorship work and will be discussing book banning trends across the U.S. and in New Hampshire.

Other topics will include:

- ◆ Trustee Basics
- ◆ Legislative tracking & policy advocacy
- ◆ Book challenges
- ◆ Conflict management
- ◆ Laws, responsibilities, and donor gifts
- ◆ Fundraising

More to come!

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

2025 Lillian Edelmenn Memorial Fund Grant to Coos County Libraries

In 2019 NHLTA established the Lillian Edelmenn Memorial Fund. ‘Big Lil’ was a mentor, friend, library ambassador, and fearless leader whose “fire in the belly” belief in New Hampshire libraries was the guiding force of the NHLTA. She was a trustee in Twin Mountain and in Dalton for many years before moving to the Concord area. Lillian was committed to education for library trustees, especially trustees at North Country libraries. More about Lil on the NHLTA website: nhlta.org/Pages/Index/228059/whats-happening.

This year we are offering a \$100 grant to each trustee from Coos County libraries to cover travel costs (including gas, tolls, parking fees, overnight hotel expenses, etc.) to attend the NHLTA Spring Conference & Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at the Doubletree Downtown Manchester.

Detailed announcement with instructions will be sent to Coos County libraries in January.



Michael York accepts a plaque honoring his contributions to NHLTA during his 25 years as State Librarian from NHLTA Board Member Cathy Harvey during his retirement celebration at the NH State Library on October 30.



By Natch Greyes,
Government Affairs
Counsel, NH Municipal
Association (NHMA)

Private Libraries and Public Funds

A number of questions have arisen about private libraries that receive public funds. This is an exceedingly difficult area of the law, if only because there simply isn't much law on it. The law, as you might imagine, focuses on public libraries because the law basically functions as the business framework for those libraries. In the case of private libraries, they, like other private entities, generally regulate themselves and, as such, are not subject to much regulation within the library statutes.

Are private libraries that provide service to the public and receive public funds required to comply with RSAs 202-A and 91-A?

As you might imagine, there is no statute on "private libraries" but there is a definition in RSA 202-A:2, I for "public library." A "public library" is "every library which receives regular financial support, at least annually, from public or private sources and which provides regular and currently useful library service to the public without charge. The words may be construed to include reference and circulating libraries, reading rooms and museums regularly open to the public."

To my knowledge, this has never been litigated and, frankly, the statute is probably overbroad. For example, a Christian Science Reading Room, which is privately funded but provides a kind of "library service" to any who enter would seem to qualify, even though the organization itself notes that it is only "similar to a library."

Only those entities which are "public libraries" would be required to comply with the library statutes and open government statutes.

Does the amount of financial support have a bearing on this requirement?

There is no means test in RSA 202-A for what qualifies as a "public library." What RSA 202-A:3 does establish, however, is that the town must "accept" or "establish" a library in order for it to qualify as a "public library." Acceptance would occur with an existing or planned library funded

in whole or in part by private donation, whereas establishment would occur where the town itself is building a new library.

Does the town meeting have to vote on accepting private library services?

Yes, RSA 202-A:3 requires the town meeting vote to accept the private library as a town library. A majority vote is sufficient to pass the warrant article which would have the town accept the library.

Does the Select Board sign a contract with the private library for services to the public?

Here is where public and private libraries differ. For public libraries, RSA 202-A:4 requires that "any city or town having a public library shall annually raise and appropriate a sum of money sufficient to provide and maintain adequate public library service therein or to supplement funds otherwise provided." But, in the case of private libraries, "[any] town may contract with another town or city, or with an institution or other organization, for any library service. If a town meeting votes to enter into such a contract, the town shall raise and appropriate sufficient money to carry out the contract."

In other words, in the case of private libraries, the town meeting must vote whether to contract with the private library for services. If it does so, then it must pay for those services. But, of course, that contract only runs for however long the contract specifies. If the town (or library) elects not to renew the contract, it will not be renewed.

If they receive public funds are they required to have an elected trustee on the board to represent the town?

Well, maybe. RSA 202-A:7 requires that "[i]n any town where a public library has been acquired by the town, in whole or in part, by donation or bequest containing other conditions or provisions for the election of its trustees or other governing board, which conditions have been agreed to by vote of the town and which conditions do not

provide for a representative of the public, a special library trustee, to represent the public, shall be elected by the town for a 3-year term. Said special trustee shall act with the other trustees.” So, if the library qualifies as a “public library” that was accepted (not established) by the town, with conditions, then it must have a trustee elected to represent the public.

Is there a way to change the terms of the original charter? For example, one library in my area

It is with a great degree of sadness that I must inform you that this will be my last contribution to the NHLTA newsletter. It has been a great privilege over these past few years to help libraries and library trustees better fulfill their mission and I will dearly miss doing so.

-NG

Mont Vernon Breaks Ground on New Library

At the September 12, 2024 groundbreaking, Mont Vernon marked an important milestone in its quest to replace its tiny iconic Daland Memorial Library with a larger, modern, accessible structure. The \$6 million project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025. The project is a true public/private partnership with financial support provided by a bond and capital reserve fund approved by taxpayers, a significant gift from the Sophia G. Daland Trust and a successful capital campaign conducted by the Mont Vernon Library Charitable Foundation.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Cindy Raspiller, Library Trustee Chair; Bill McKinney, Library Building Committee Chair; Stacy Clark, Turnstone Corporation President; Tom Kearns, Dewing Schmid and Kearns President; John Quinlan, Select Board; Anne Dodd, Sophia G. Daland Trust; Bonnie Angulas, Library Director. PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE PREFTAKES

is required to have a minister on the trustee board and they find it hard to fulfill this requirement.

Yes, it is possible. Nothing in the law is set in stone. It will, however, require some work. My first suggestion would be to contact with Charitable Trusts Division of the Attorney General’s Office. They may or may not be able to help. You will likely also need to contact the library attorney. A filing will need to be made (likely in Superior Court) and the judge convinced that a change is necessary.

NH Library Trustee

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