

FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held June 4, 2026

Board members present: Allegra Wright, Sue Presby, Estelle Lafleur, Candy Murphy, Sally Fitzgerald, Norma St. John

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order: 5:35

Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2026: Sally noted a typo in the word Pavilion. Norma made a motion to accept the May minutes with the correction; Candy seconded. Estelle abstained. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The budget currently shows a balance of \$14,081.61. Norma has not paid for membership to Littleton Chamber of Commerce because nothing was submitted for payment. Sally will find the application online. Sally made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Estelle. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Pavilion update: Laura reported that the pavilion building was complete. Minor electrical work still needs to be completed. The problem now is extensive landscaping needs to be done to allow people to sit on the lawn while a program is occurring. She is getting quotes. Norma asked for an update about the possibility of porcupines chewing on the posts, as is a problem at Bretzfelder Park. Laura had asked a trustee, who felt protection could be added in the event they see any damage.

Velocireader: Laura reported that several times the Velocireaders have been checked out, but wasn't sure how often photos were posted to Facebook. She has instructed her staff to make adults aware that we expect photos to be taken and shared. Estelle mentioned she took photos at the baseball fields. Laura said Kami took photos of Velocireader at the CLiF event at BES today.

Museum passes: Laura has purchased passes for NH Parks, Fairbanks Museum, Squam Lakes Nature Science Center, McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center and those are available now to patrons. She also purchased passes to Children's Museum of New Hampshire but does not have the passes yet.

Yankee Humor fundraiser:

Candy listed questions to be answered or reminders for the near future:

1. The Rocks needs \$250 check for the balance from Norma by mid-August

2. Chairs from library and All Saints church: who will transport them to and from the event? How soon can we bring them to The Rocks? Laura said that the meeting room is in use until 11:30 that day, and her chairs will need to be picked up after that is over.
3. Remind The Rocks to post our event on their road sign two weeks prior to the event.

Tickets: Discussion ensued again about the best way for people to purchase (physical tickets vs. will-call list) and payment (cash or check vs. PayPal). Allegra had a discussion with someone who was not happy about the will-call scenario, feeling uneasy about giving us money and having nothing in their hand to say they paid. Allegra was surprised by the backlash to this idea. Estelle pointed out that a paper ticket was a good reminder for people about the date of the event. Final decision was to use paper tickets; pay with cash or check only. Sally made a motion to use paper tickets, seconded by Estelle. Motion passed.

Estelle made a motion that the ticket stub capture names and emails to add to our mailing list. The stubs may also be used for a drawing. Sally seconded. Motion passed.

Flyers and promotion: Laura will email flyers to all North Country libraries, and tell them about it at an upcoming meeting. Candy will send press release template to Laura to send to local media. Candy plans to drop off flyers to schools for teacher lounges before the end of the school year. Flyers will also be dropped off at local businesses. Information will be on the library marquee and The Rocks road sign.

Books: authors are bringing their own books to sell that day. Little Village Toy & Book Store plans to have an in-store display of the authors' books and a flyer about the event.

Volunteers needed: the event needs the following help

1. Someone to transport chairs back and forth
2. Set-up
3. Ticket takers
4. Clean-up
5. Food and drink: we will be selling snacks during the show. Friends members will be asked to provide individually wrapped baked goods. Sue will bring bottled water and bottled iced tea.

Master of Ceremonies: someone is needed to introduce the authors at the event, as well as talk about what the Friends do. Candy does not feel comfortable doing that. She agreed to meet the authors when they arrive, since she has been the one communicating with them.

Day on Main: is this Saturday June 6th 10am-4pm. We are in need of volunteers to man the table for a couple hours shift. Contact Allegra if you can help. The Summer Reading Dinosaur will be making an appearance after 1pm.

Brainstorming session: tabled.

Vacant board positions: tabled.

Snack Shack Clean-up: will take place Friday, June 19th at 10am. Norma will contact the water department prior so they can turn the water on. First concert is Sunday June 28th. Laura may have a lead on a family to help Norma with the Shack duties.

New Business

Pollinator Garden clean-up: tabled.

Book Sale: The annual book sale begins Saturday, June 27th. Friends members may shop early, on Friday, June 26th 5-6pm. People may also join the Friends that night. Laura asked if the library could borrow tables and tents for Saturday, June 27th. They would be returned Saturday afternoon and so wouldn't interfere with the concert on Sunday. Request approved.

Next meetings: the July and August meetings cannot be held in the meeting room, as it is in use for the book sale and a program. The meetings are rescheduled as follows:

July 9th 5:30pm and August 13th 5:30pm.

Meeting adjourned 6:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Clerkin