

Rye Public Library Board of Trustees

DRAFT

Minutes for Public Session, Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Present: Trustees Michael Moody, Joe Marttila, JoAnn Hodgdon, Julie Tucker, Victor Azzi, Library Director Andrew Richmond and Attorney Eric Maher

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 by JoAnn Hodgdon. Pledge was said.

Public comment:

Misty McCarty by Wallis Sands presents a "Follow up to Allyship 101 and June 17th Public Comments" letter signed by 10 Rye residents with a roadmap as to how they would like to see the trustees proceed. This letter and trustee response is discussed further below in minutes.

Micheal Bean, 112 Grove Rd questions who is running the library and that the employees at the June meeting were rude, condescending and acting as activists and that they do not speak for the entire community. He is not proud of library employees as they represent the library and challenges trustees to run the library.

Jaci Grote, 124 Washington Rd, asked why the meeting was held at Partners Bank and not at the library where live streaming is available.

Bob McGrath 6 Rands Lane says he is speaking as a Rye resident not a selectboard member. He states he is proud of the trustees and that is very easy for some to throw tomatoes and he hopes those speaking the loudest will run in the future. He also hopes the community recognizes that the trustees are doing their best for good of library.

Amy Ricky, 8 Alder Rd thanks trustees for their works and hopes they understand that parents who have children that are directly impacted by the programming decision are passionate for that reason.

Motion at 9:15 by Julie Tucker, seconded by Joe Marttila to go into non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3 II(I) Legal and RSA 91-A:3 II(c) Reputation. Roll Call: Moody-Yes, Hodgdon-Yes, Azzi-Yes, Marttila-Yes, Tucker-Yes

Motion at 11:47 by Julie Tucker to come out non-public, seconded by Mike Moody and approved.

Discussion about letter with Rye resident Misty McCarty. In response to points made in the letter trustees will establish a permanent set day of the month and time for meetings, will look into placing the agenda onto the town website calendar and will establish trustee library emails. Discussion about neutrality and safety issues. In response to inclusive library programming demand Trustees state that the library has and will continue to strive for a wide variety of programs consistent with our program policy. In response to demand for public statement apologizing for the program decision trustees will not be making any farther statements.

Mike asks about possible incoming invoices for HVAC project and roof repair. Victor states that a \$10,000 payment for the roof repair will be due in upcoming month and that the total projected cost of the HVAC is around \$220,000. Mike will roll over half of the \$200,000 CD and keep the other half in

checking for roof repair costs. Andy gives a quick financial review. We still do not have balances and interest numbers from the Trustee of the Trust Funds.

Discussion around tree grates on library sidewalk. Victor says at a cost of \$300 grates can be cut and allow more room for trees. Trustees will look into this further before making decision.

Julie Tucker makes motion to formally utilize town attorney Eric Maher from DTC law firm for legal issues. Seconded by Joe Martilla and approved.

Meeting adjourned 12:48

Respectfully Submitted, Secretary Julie Tucker