

PLAISTOW PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, April 17, 2025

The Plaistow Public Library Board of Trustees held a Special Meeting at the Library on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

Present: Jennifer Kiarsis, Secretary
Randall Mikkelsen, Member at Large (via Zoom)
Kathleen Slade, Alternate

Not Present: Megan Lee, Chair
Rosemarie Bayek, Treasurer
Michelle Sykes, Member at Large
Mary Gori, Alternate

Others Present: Cab Vinton
Robert Harb, State Representative for the 20th District

The purpose of this meeting was to have invited guest, Representative Harb, update the Board on the State of New Hampshire bills affecting the Library, the status of those bills, and how the Board of Trustees can best represent the interest of the Library at the State level.

Randy Mikkelsen started the meeting thanking Representative Harb for his willingness to meet with the Board.

Representative Harb was informative regarding the process between the House of Representatives and Senate in the State of New Hampshire legislature. He advised that the State deficit currently stands at \$750,000. The amount of \$300,000 has been cut from the Natural and Cultural Resources Department, which includes parks, recreation, as well as libraries and museums. The bill to cut those funds has been passed by the House of Representatives (which included several amendments), and now is in the Senate for approval. The Senate he feels will also amend this bill, and it will then be passed. Because the House and Senate will have made amendments to the bill, the President of the Senate and House Speaker will then appoint a Committee of Conference. Members of the House and Senate appointed to this Committee negotiate terms of the bill that will be sent to the Governor, assuming it is passed by the full House and Senate. The Chair of the Finance Committee for the House, Representative Kenneth Weyler, will be on this Committee of Conference, according to Representative Harb.

The \$300,000 cut is not set in stone, and may be offset by incoming funds, controlled by the Way and Means Committee. Several fees for licensing and services will be implemented and may affect the deficit. This all remains to be seen.

In summary, Representative Harb advised the Board, and all concerned citizens, should contact Representative Kenneth Weyler, representing the 14th district, who is currently the Chair of the Finance Committee. He, most likely, will be negotiating the bill, as well as his counterpart in the Senate. Contact information for Mr. Weyler is as follows:

23 Scotland Road
Kingston, NH 03848-3232
603-642-3518
kweyler@aol.com

Contact by telephone, email, and snail mail are all good; however calling and speaking directly to Representative Weyler is best. Representatives are more accessible than Senators. Senators have assistants who handle constituent calls/issues. That said, contacting the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee is also a good idea. His contact information is as follows (and has been sent out to the Board by Kathy Slade via email):

Sen. James Gray
State House, Room 105
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-4980 (Office) / 603-332-7144 (Home)
James.Gray@gc.nh.gov

Randy Mikkelsen also asked Representative Harb about the Federal funding for the IMLS, which will affect Federal funding to New Hampshire. Representative Harb suggested contacting our Congressman Christopher Pappas and/or Senators Hassan and Shaheen. As reported by Cab in an email, there is currently a lawsuit being filed on behalf of several states regarding the IMLS funding cuts.

The meeting was ended by Randy Mikkelsen again thanking Representative Harb for accepting our invitation. Representative Harb stated that he would be making some calls on behalf of the Library on both sides of the House and Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiarsis
Secretary