



FY25 Annual Meeting

October 26, 2025
4:00 pm/Hybrid

AGENDA

4:00 Welcome

Laura Larrick, Chair

4:10 Minutes from October 20, 2024 Annual Meeting

Tracy Walsh, Secretary

4:15 Finance Report

Janice Starkey, Treasurer

4:25 Propose Bylaw Updates & Voting

Laura Larrick, Chair

Tracy Walsh, Secretary

4:35 Nominating Committee

Sarah Slater, Chair

4:40 Corporation Recognitions

Laura Larrick, Chair

4:45 Year in Review

Rubi Simon, Howe Library Director

4:55 Librarian Presentation

5:05 Librarian Presentation

5:15 Adjourn

5:15 - 5:45 Programming Highlights, Rapid Reviews, and Refreshments - Main Floor of Howe

Minutes of Howe Library Corporation FY24 Meeting

Sunday, October 20, 2024

4-5:30pm/Hybrid

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 by Laura Larrick, Chair of the Howe Library Corporation's Board of Trustees. Laura gave a brief welcome and introduction to the meeting's agenda and then she showed slides by category of the most frequently circulated books this year at the Howe Library. The children's category led the way with over 14,000 books taken out; next was nonfiction with 5,722.

Debbie Williamson, secretary, presented the minutes from the October 22, 2023 Annual Meeting. These minutes were approved with one "no" vote online.

The Finance Report was presented by the treasurer, Janice Starkey. In general the finances for the year were healthy. Janice clarified that the operating expenses (\$313,024) of the library primarily cover the collections and programming, while the town is responsible for general maintenance of the building and staff salaries. Much of the revenue (\$501,005) comes from the Annual Fund (\$220K) and a modest drawdown from the endowment.

Jennifer Taxman (Committee Chair) presented the Nominating Committee Report and Elections.

Nine new Corporation members were nominated and unanimously approved:

Nancy Carter
Suzanne Crowther
Shontay Delalue
Jessica Grant
Catherine Lacey
Luke McLaughry
Elizabeth Soucy
Heidi Trimarco
Jacque Wernimont

The Nominating Committee was recognized:

Carolyn Dever, Board Vice Chair
S. Caroline Kerr
Laura Larrick, Board Chair
Sarah Slater, incoming Nominating Committee Chair
Janice Starkey, Board Treasurer
Jennifer Taxman, Committee Chair

And the Board of Trustees for FY25 was recognized:

Stan Colla
Carolyn Dever, Board Vice Chair
Laura Larrick, Board Chair
Catherine Rieke
Irasema Saucedo-Gomez
Barbara Spaid

Janice Starkey, Board Treasurer
Tracy Walsh
Lawrence Walters
Charlie Wheelan
Joanna Whitcomb - New Selectboard Representative
Debbie Williamson

Laura Larrick recognized Nancy Carter for her 12 years of service on the Board as the Selectboard representative. She is now a Corporation Member. Laura also recognized the work that was done by other committees not reporting. The Executive Committee worked to make the Development Coordinator position full time. The Governance Committee created a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the Howe's unique arrangement with the Town of Hanover. One new goal of the MOU is to have a series of meetings each year with the town to allow for better budgeting. The Facilities Committee continued to monitor the condition of the building and to collaborate with the Town's Capital Improvement Program. A focus this year will be a Space Planning project that arose from the Strategic Plan. The Events Committee planned and executed the Spring Soiree which had 140 people attend and \$19,000 were raised. It is hoped that this can become a regular fundraising event. The Development Committee worked on branding and marketing the Annual Fund. This includes the Fall Appeal, Spring Appeal and the Community Sponsors Program. This year the Fall Appeal brought in 262 gifts with 8% being from new donors. Laura recognized the 19 Community Sponsors and pointed out that two were new. Additionally, nine Corporation Members who had passed were recognized.

Library Director, Rubi Simon, gave a review of all that has been done during FY24 at the Howe Library. There was a Strategic Plan started that gathered information from all parts of the library and community; 300 people responded to the survey. Focus groups, usage data, and trends were also used to gather information. Patterns emerged and, although most people were generally pleased and satisfied with the library, there were areas where improvement could occur. There was a desire for more growth in the collections: digital, streaming and physical. Also mentioned was a new website with easier navigation and access, especially to the catalogue. Suggestions for programming were made in the adult, teens and children under 5 areas. More studies are needed to look at the physical spaces with a focus on the cafe, teen room, and study rooms. A retreat was held with the staff and board that identified three important areas: investment in community engagement, library facilities, and organizational development. Next will be an activity plan developed by the staff with evaluations and reporting.

The final agenda item was a breakout session of Corporation and Board Members to answer the question: What does it mean to be a Corporation Member? This was led by Board Trustee, Lawrence Walters. There were eight groups (including two online). The goal was to discuss how to be more engaged as corporation members and to better define how members can support the library mission. Notes were taken and made available after the meeting online.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Article I, Section 5: The Corporation operates under a ~~“Statement of Understanding”~~ **“Memorandum of Understanding”** between the Howe Library Corporation and the Town of Hanover and reviewed on a periodic basis.

Article II, Section 4: Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Corporation may be held, upon written application to the Secretary by the Chair, by any three members of the Board of Trustees, or by any ~~five~~ **twenty-five** members of the Corporation, setting forth the object or objects of the meeting. Notice shall be given in the same manner as provided for notification of annual meetings.

Article II, Section 6: Nominating Committee, Selection. There shall be a Nominating Committee of the Corporation ~~that is a subcommittee of the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee shall be responsible for membership and nominations.~~ **consisting of the Board Chair, ex officio, and three other members, one of whom shall be elected each year by the Corporation at its Annual Meeting for a term of three years. Prior to the annual meeting, the Board of Trustees shall nominate one candidate who is a member of the Corporation and who is not a member of the Board of Trustees, to the Nominating Committee. The terms of the elected members of the Nominating Committee shall be arranged so that the term of one expires each year. Any vacancy created on the Nominating Committee when a duly elected member is unable to serve shall be filled by vote of the Board of Trustees, and the replacement shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Corporation.** Any member of the Corporation may present a nomination or nominations for the Nominating Committee provided such nomination or nominations have been presented to the Secretary of the Trustees in writing at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting.

Article III, Section 5: Meeting of the Trustees. A meeting of the Trustees shall be held ~~following the final adjournment of the annual meeting of the Corporation~~ **held as soon as is possible following the annual meeting of the Corporation.** At least four regular meetings of the Trustees shall be held during the fiscal year, at such time and place as the Trustees may designate. Special meetings of the Trustees may be called by the Chair or the Secretary, and in addition, may be called upon by petition of any three Trustees addressed to the Secretary.

Nomination to the Board of Trustees

Megan Donegan Megan has been happy to call Hanover home for the past 10 years. She formerly lived in Los Angeles and Connecticut, and had a career in the Entertainment PR industry working with A-list film clients, before returning to New England to raise children with her husband David. After moving to Hanover, Megan worked as a teacher and Reading Interventionist at both the Lyme School and the Ray School in Hanover.

Megan and David have three children and live in downtown Hanover, right next to the house where David grew up. In her downtime, Megan loves to hike with her dogs Nacho and Ripley, do lots of yoga, and tend to her plants. She also is an avid volunteer for the Howe Library, serving on the Events Committee. Megan has a Communications Degree from Penn State University and a Masters in Education from Loyola Marymount University.

Sonya Stover Sonya and her family have called the Upper Valley home for nearly a dozen years, the last six in Hanover. Before moving to the Upper Valley, she and her husband Matt lived in and around New York City. Once upon a time she was a compensation consultant to major media and entertainment companies, but happily left that life twenty years ago to care for her two children (both avid readers!).

In addition to her main introverted hobbies -- reading and quilting -- Sonya also volunteers weekly sorting and selling books at Cover to Cover, the bookstore associated with Cover Home Repair in WRJ. When not holding a book she can often be found holding a leash, walking her dog Rosie on Rip Road. Sonya has a BA in history from Cornell and an MBA from Columbia Business School.