

James E. Nichols Memorial Library  
35 Plymouth Street Center Harbor, NH. 03226  
April 22, 2026. 6PM  
Public Hearing concerning Library Renovation

The meeting was called to order by Selectman Chair Richard Drenkhahn at 6PM. In attendance Selectman William Ricciardi, Harry Viens and Robin Woodaman, Selectmen's Assistant. Also in attendance, Clay Hayles, Alexis Desloge from SDA, Trustees Sandra Frost, Ann Xavier, Jill Weed, Stephany Marchant Lavalley, Debra Thiboutot. Mark Thiboutot, Linda Verge, Director, Douglas Verge, Lisa Merriman, Diane Drenkhahn, Jeff Haines, Gayle Lacasse, Douglas Hurst, Ann Koniszewski, Karen Ponton, David Hughes, Gwen Bronson, Linda Hopper, Anthony Averutine, Bonnie Johnson, Sharon Thompson, Gary Thompson.

Clay Hayles from SDA presented the three plans that had been reviewed by the Trustees and explained fully what each one entailed. He then showed the room two watercolor pictures of what the pavilion would look like for option 3, and what the children's room would look like. He explained that the Trustees are planning to fund the renovations with donations, fund raising activities and grants. He then fielded questions from the audience.

Diane Drenkhahn asked about whether the building's grandfathered status would be changed after renovations, and it would. She also asked about the present doors being handicapped accessible, and they are. Gayle Lacasse asked about what type of roof would be used and that has not yet been finalized.

Douglas Hurst asked to have the type of elevator explained. Karen Ponton asked if the current radiators will still be used and they will be. She also asked about where the mechanicals would be located, and that is on the plans. Clay Hayles explained that the heat would come from propane, and the tank would be buried, and heat pumps would be used and mini splits. Jeff Haines asked

about fund raising and Alexis Desloge of SDA and the Chair Holderness Library Trustees responded that all of their renovation funds came from private sources. Ann Xavier told the room that a Friends Group had been formed just for the purpose of raising funds, and helping programs for the library and donations would be tax deductible. Karen Ponton asked about the circulation desk being moved and reusing the existing doors and mill work. Ann Koniszewski asked about extra staff, and Linda Verge, the Director, said that scheduling for a portion of the day or hiring other part time personnel would be able to handle the extra duties. David Hughes asked about a second egress, and Clay Hayles told him that 49 people are allowed without another egress. David Hughes also asked about the kitchen, which would not have a stove, and Clay Hayles told him the entire basement would be sprinklered. Gayle Lacasse asked if the landscaping would be disturbed and it would not. Gwen Bronson asked if the programs being run now needed more space. Linda Verge answered that the Chair Yoga Program expanded to a second session because only 6 people could use the room, so the answer was yes. Karen Ponton asked if other Town buildings could be used and Linda Verge answered that the problem was staffing. Linda Hopper asked about the esthetics of the new space and Clay Hayles assured her that it would be in keeping with the rest of the building. David Hughes asked if the electrical system would be upgraded and Clay Hayles said it would. Selectman William Ricciardi asked if the Trustees would hold another public Meeting and Sandra Frost said we intended to in the summer for summer residents. William Ricciardi asked if at that time would SDA stake out where the pavilion would be located and have figures for the cost.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Xavier, Secretary