

Meeting of July 8th, 2011 with Terry Knowles

Terry Knowles of the N.H. Attorney General's Office had offered to meet with those Steering Committee members, Directors and Trustees of the Kimball, Plaistow and Sandown libraries to discuss the proposed consortium involving these three libraries.

The main concern of those present was the procedures, rules and regulations and cost that might be incurred in setting up any future collaboration . Various scenarios had been suggested that involved forming a legal corporation, having Articles of Agreement and By Laws, and establishing a 501 (c) 3, etc.

Once Terry was assured that our main purpose was to establish a union catalog for the three libraries her recommended approach was to " keep it simple ". She suggested that we establish a simple cooperative to accomplish our main goal of new circulation systems for all. With buying power being the main purpose she felt that we did not need to incorporate or have a 501 (c) 3. A simple signed agreement between the three libraries should accomplish our goal.

Terry did suggest that lawyer should be involved in drafting the agreement and establishing binding terms, vendor relationships and possible exit clauses. She did quote RSA 202-a:4-a which establishes that any public library may join a cooperative. Communicating to the voters about the cost saving element of this relationship is a good public relations move but this type of arrangement does not have to be approved by a ballot question.

Those in attendance left the meeting with a more positive feeling about the future of the proposed collaboration.