

# Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

**Date:** Wednesday Sep 7, 2022, in person

**Present:** Nancy Axelson, Susi Burke, Melodee Carter-Guyette, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki, Deborah Regan, Erin Sniderman, Jane Shanahan, Jean Storer, Sheila Tanguay, Judy Wilson

## **Discussed:**

1. Welcome to Melodee Carter-Guyette as a new friend!
2. June Minutes – Approved
3. Treasurer’s report
  - a. Alisha not in attendance; will send balance via email.
4. Director’s Report
  - a. Book Sale Saturday Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Getting a lot of good books donated.
    - ii. Joanna needs some bakers to provide baked goods on that day or the day before.
    - iii. Joanna will need help the week before with organizing. She will send out an email for volunteers.
    - iv. Rolling Thunder or Better World Books will hopefully take the unsold books.
    - v. Laura Pouliot sometimes takes some of the unsold books to nearby needy areas.
    - vi. We will be able to put some aside for Little Free Library.
  - b. Writers Workshop, renewed for a fall session with Bonnar Spring
    - i. Donna and Melodee participated and found it very interesting and learned a lot about the fine details of writing; they felt Bonnar gave really useful feedback.
    - ii. This will be the same program as in the spring.
    - iii. Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 people signed up so far.
  - c. Museum Pass Usage Update
    - i. June – 8 passes used.
    - ii. July - 10 passes used.
    - iii. Aug - 17 passes used.
    - iv. Good variety in passes used; state park pass was used the most.
    - v. Tried Fuller Gardens but still can’t get a library pass there.
  - d. Summer Reading program update
    - i. Summer Reading was great! 75-80 kids signed up and most participated in reading.
    - ii. The teens loved the book boxes.
    - iii. 1400 hours of reading this summer vs 1000 last year.
    - iv. Next year’s CSLP’s theme is All Together Now (Friendship and Inclusion).
    - v. Next year instead of a bike as the big prize, Leah was considering purchasing an LL Bean snow tube as a prize. This would cost \$190 and would need to be ordered soon as they sell out. Another suggestion was a bean bag chair.
    - vi. We will finish discussion about next year’s prize at the next meeting and vote on it then.

- e. CLIF program grant, \$2,000 worth of books for library and \$500 worth of books for school. 4 programs will be held; 2 at the school and 2 at a local preschool.
- f. Children's Programs
  - i. 1000 Books before Kindergarten
    - 1. Had a fun graduation party with 6 of the 18 graduates in attendance. There was an additional graduate after the party that brings the total to 19.
    - 2. Will continue the program, very well received.
    - 3. Will need \$40 for bags.
  - ii. Reading Programs
    - 1. Want some new supplies shakers and silk play clothes which would cost about \$110.
  - iii. Teen Book Boxes
    - 1. Will need about \$150 for boxes in Oct, Dec, Feb and April.
  - iv. Voted on allocating up to \$400 from the Friends for the children's programs requests listed above - APPROVED
- 5. PayPal Donation Link
  - a. Alisha was looking into this
- 6. Little Free Library
  - a. Signup sheet went out in email earlier this week.
  - b. Both Little Libraries were stuffed full of books this week, so Jean moved some back to the library.
  - c. Jean and Judy will go through the two boxes at the library to see if any should be removed.
- 7. Upcoming programs
  - a. Meet the Director Wed, Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30
  - b. Program ideas
    - i. Historic New England
    - ii. Wildlife, maybe turkey
    - iii. Jodi Picoult; plays to bigger crowd?
    - iv. Planting for butterflies or change in climate? Or permaculture gardening? Maybe tie into seed library.
    - v. Invasive species – this was done by conservation committee a few years ago.
    - vi. Cutting down on plastics; Refill Store Portsmouth or maybe plastics and ocean, blue ocean. Jane has a friend that has extensive knowledge on this.
    - vii. English professor discussion about critical reading
    - viii. Cookbook club
    - ix. Christmas Craft or Wreath
    - x. I am Culturally Curious online program – art historian
- 8. Hannaford Bag Program:
  - a. Friends will receive \$1 for each \$2.50 bag sold
  - b. September is our month
  - c. Judy will send Susi the info to post on FB
- 9. Amazon Wish List for Library – a list of items can buy and donate to library
  - a. Ex 1: <https://www.northwaleslibrary.org/amazon>
  - b. Ex 2: <https://somerslibraryfoundation.org/foundation-creates-charity-list-for-library/>

- c. Decision made not to go through Amazon. Maybe at some point we will create a list or registry in a different way.

10. Strategic Plan

- a. Erin Sniderman went to a state library system workshop to brainstorm strategic plan for libraries. Barbara had sent out a request for SOAR feedback in an email in July. Erin would like 1 to 2 volunteers from the Friends to be part of strategic planning committee. It will likely start in January and run 6 months. What does our community need? What is our community identity? How does library fill those needs?
- b. We will consider doing SOAR in a Friends meeting together.

11. Selection policy will be placed on agenda for next meeting

12. Fundraiser Possibility

- a. Water Street Bookstore has fundraisers once a month for local nonprofits.

**Action Items:**

- **Jean and Judy:** go through the Little Library book boxes to see if anything needs to be weeded out.
- **Judy:** send Hannaford marketing material for Bag program to Susi to post on FB.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:00 PM

**Next meeting:** Oct 5, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Susi Burke, Secretary