

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday Feb 1, 2023

Present: Susi Burke, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki, Deborah Regan, Alisha Roberts, Jane Shanahan, Jean Storer, Judy Wilson.

Discussed:

1. Jan Minutes – Approved
2. Treasurer's report
 - a. Current balance: \$34,155.40
 - b. Alisha checked Citizens online for CD rates, around 2%+ for 13 months, and Money Market rates are really low 0.4%. She will check in person before the next meeting.
 - c. Alisha purchased gift cards from New England Aquarium, Nicks, Martha's and Applecrest.
 - d. Amazon Smiles has been terminated as a program.
3. Director's Report (Joanna Meighan)
 - a. Museum passes went out 5 times in January, MFA, Currier, Portland Museum of Art, Strawberry Banke
 - b. "Take Your Child to the Library Day" - Saturday, February 4
 - i. Refreshments: Alisha and Deborah will bake; Jean and Melodee will provide drinks.
 - ii. Door prizes: Alisha purchased \$25 gift cards from Nicks, Martha's and Applecrest.
 - c. Scott Faiia presentation on Ethiopia -Wednesday, February 8
 - i. Refreshments: Donna and Judy will bake for this event.
 - d. Museum Gift Cards
 - i. Alisha purchased gift cards for the New England Aquarium.
4. STEM Discover Kits
 - a. Leah has purchased items for the kits. They will be available to check out for a 2-week period.
 - i. Chemistry Kit (Flux Game, Molecule Set, Basher Science, Elements Book)
 - ii. Laser Kit (Laser Maze, Book): **waiting on book for this one.**
 - iii. Microscope Kit (Microscope, Prepared Slides, Book)
 - iv. US Kit (Scrambled States Game and Book, Puzzle, United Tweets Book)
5. Adults Kits
 - a. Leah has been researching these ideas.
 - i. Experience Bollywood Kit: ideas for this: Indian cookbook, Bollywood DVD Monsoon Wedding, Bride and Prejudice, Bollywood CD music, can have a list of Bollywood movies on Hoopla, maybe add some individual spice packets.
 - ii. Wood Burning Tool – approx. \$40.
 - iii. Yoga box, Body and Mind handbook, \$20 Yoga DVD, Guided Meditations, maybe yoga for children, Yoga dice and cards game?
 - b. New Ideas
 - i. Maybe cultural experiences

- ii. Possibly something like Top Secret Adventures by Highlights. NOTE: Susi did research after meeting, and these seem to be discontinued but [they do have a USA based one](#).
 - iii. [Unlock! games](#) – These are escape room games with cards and an app with themes like exploring a sunken ship for treasure.
- c. Leah will come up with 3 or 4 kits.
- d. Approved for \$400.
- 6. 1000 books before Kindergarten program
 - a. Approved \$40 for 20 more bags.
- 7. New Comfy seating request in the children’s area
 - a. Want to remove the bean bags and have modular seating.
 - b. Anything over \$2000 is a capital expense so may need to consider this.
 - c. Leah will do some research and bring this to the next meeting.
- 8. Winter Reading Program
 - a. There has been a lot of interest and signups.
 - b. 10 sheets have been turned in so far.
- 9. Poker Room
 - a. Sheila had received an email in December. When Alicia found out, she immediately responded and got her fingerprints done. Paperwork is in order and sent to state. Looks like everything is ready to go now.
- 10. Hannaford Blooming 4 Good
 - a. As of Mid-January, it was \$31 but we do not have final tally yet.
- 11. Upcoming programs
 - a. Local resident Scott Faiia will present a slide show and talk about Ethiopia.
 - i. Feb 8TH In person program, snow date Feb 15th (see Director’s report for details)
 - b. Culturally Curious with Jane O’Neal through the NH Humanities
 - i. March 15th; in person if possible; if snow that day, it will be on Zoom.
 - ii. Refreshments would be needed if in person.
 - iii. Fierce Females: Women in Art
 - c. History of Quilting with Pam Weeks through NH Humanities
 - i. Wed April 19th in person
 - ii. Hampton Falls Historical society may bring the Batchelder family quilt and Pam will talk about the history and/or people can bring in their old quilts to learn about them.
 - iii. Currier Museum has quilting exhibit that might be a good tie in.
- 12. Suggested Future Programs
 - a. Donna read one of Lara Bricker books, the Final Curtain, based in Exeter and said it was good. Her friend also read a book of Lara’s and really liked it.
 - b. Donna went to a Portsmouth Library program about the Abenaki tribe. It was conducted both in person and on Zoom and there were 4 presenters, including Ann Jennison. Ann told some really good stories. This was through INHCC, [Indigenous NH Collaborative Collective](#).
 - c. Deborah mentioned the [Mount Kearsage Indian Museum](#). They have education programs that have storytelling and hands-on activities. [Information on these programs can be found here](#).

13. Museum passes to discuss in March meeting

Info shown below is 2022 prices and info.

- a. Passes last approved in Jan 2022
 - i. NH Parks Pass, 2022, \$105
- b. Passes last approved in Feb 2022
 - i. Bedford Gardens, 2022: \$125
- c. Passes last approved in Mar 2022
 - i. Wright Museum, 2022: \$125, unlimited free admission, Open from April – Oct 31st
 - ii. Currier, 2022: \$80 for year, 2 passes for 1/2 off
- d. Passes last approved in April 2022
 - i. Squam Lake Science Center, 2022: \$300 for library memberships, \$10 trail admission, up to 4 a day (normally \$22/adult, \$16/children)
 - ii. MFA \$200, up to 2 people \$10 admission, 70 Promo Codes
 - iii. Gardner, \$195, up to 4 adults, \$5 admission
 - iv. Portland Museum of Art, \$250, up to 2 adults free
 - v. Historic New England, \$125, adults and kids free
 - vi. Strawberry Banke, \$150, Free family tickets
 - vii. Seacoast Science Center, \$100, 50% discount on tickets
 - viii. The Fells, \$100, up to 2 people free

Action Items:

- **Alisha:** Investigate CD rates and Money Mkt rates in person at Citizens to see if we should move some money into those.
- **Alisha and Deborah:** Bake for “Take Your Child to the Library Day” on Feb 4.
- **Jean and Melodee:** Provide drinks for “Take Your Child to the Library Day” on Feb 4. Extras will be used for Ethiopia program.
- **Donna and Judy:** Bake for Ethiopia event on Feb 8.

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 PM

Next meeting: Mar 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary