

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday April 5, 2023

Present: Nancy Axelson, Susi Burke, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki, Deborah Regan, Alisha Roberts, Jane Shanahan, Jean Storer, Judy Wilson. **ONLINE:** Melodee Carter-Guyette

Discussed:

1. Feb Minutes – Approved
2. Treasurer's report
 - a. Current balance: \$54,233.89
 - b. Poker Room:
 - i. \$27,668.76 proceeds – \$7,500 rent = 20,168.76
 - ii. To get on next year's schedule for poker room, we need to show up for a picture.
 - c. CD/Money Market: We cannot do CDs at Citizens with our account type, but we can do a money market acct. Rate is 3% currently with a \$25,000 minimum. Susan Smiley is still on the Friends account. We need to remove her and add one of the other officers in addition to Alisha. Will do this in June when we vote for officers and put it on the agenda every year when officers are elected.
 - d. Bloomin 4 Good - \$61
 - e. Alisha filed 990 form on 4/4/23.
 - f. She used 990 EZ form which can be used if revenue under \$50,000.
3. Director's Report (Joanna Meighan)
 - a. NH Humanities Council Events
 - i. Mar 15: Culturally Curious: Fierce Females Women in Art event
 1. 28 people attended, feedback that it was great.
 - ii. April 19: History of Quilting with Pam Weeks
 1. Will be cohosted by historical society.
 2. Batchelder quilt will be there and Pam will discuss it.
 3. 41 people signed up so far. This will be capped at 50.
 - b. Winter Reading Challenge
 - i. 40 kids and 52 adults signed up.
 - ii. 27 forms were completed.
 - iii. Leah will give Alisha the info to purchase the \$100 gift card prize.
 - c. Mandala painting
 - i. Wed, May 24 at 6pm.
 - ii. This program is already filling up.
 - d. Future Idea: Community Read
 - i. Braiding Sweetgrass – children and YA versions of book exist.
 - ii. NH Humanities budget may have been spent, may need Friends to supply books and speaker Damon Costello. We will revisit next month to see if funding is needed.
 - e. TJ Wheeler reached out to library to propose a program.
 - i. His friend from Nepal does a bluegrass tour and presentation.

- ii. TJ would play along with him.
 - iii. Cost would be \$300.
 - iv. Approved.
 - v. Scheduled for June 21.
- f. Summer 2023 reading
 - i. Wildlife Encounters
 - ii. Larger program with 7 animals, including some larger ones like tortoise and foxes.
 - iii. \$450 and mileage, so \$510 total.
 - iv. \$510 Approved.
- 4. STEM Discover Kits
 - a. Homeschoolers come in many Friday mornings. They've been using these boxes and loving them.
 - b. Wendy made a journal for each kit that kids can record thoughts in.
- 5. New Eyewitness books
 - a. 12 new books coming out.
 - b. \$8.99 each totaling around \$100.
 - c. \$100 Approved.
- 6. New Comfy seating request in the children's area
 - a. Want modular seating.
 - b. \$130 for 3 chairs of varying heights and \$340 for a set of 4 taller ones.
 - c. Approved \$700 for seating and Leah will determine what combination she would like.
- 7. Request for a clicker for presentations costing \$12.
 - a. Approved.
 - b. Alisha will purchase it.
- 8. Little Free Library sign up.
 - a. In good shape until late June.
- 9. Suggested Future Programs/Ideas
 - a. [Black Heritage Trail of NH](#): Melodee went to a program at the Lane Library which she thought was great. Wonderful walking trail that you can do on your own as well as guided tours. The organization works with indigenous people and POC. A friend of Donna's, Valerie Fagan, does the walking tours for them. She can reach out to her if we want to do a tour or possibly an event in Feb 2024.
- 10. Ideas for getting word out about museums and the Friends organization.
 - a. Update Friends Board with Field trips based on museums in the same area.
 - b. Setup table at summer reading program.
 - c. Setup a table at the Hampton Falls Farmers Market.
 - d. There is a Children's craft fair in June. Leah will be there, and we could also setup table there.
 - e. Create a bookmark with info on museums and maybe a QR code with link to website info on museums.
- 11. Museum passes

Below are museums approved in previous years. Amounts shown below is 2022 prices. Bolded Museums had good usage.

 - a. **NH Parks Pass, 2022, \$105**
 - b. **Bedrock Gardens, 2022: \$125**

- c. **Wright Museum, 2022:** \$125, unlimited free admission, Open from April – Oct 31st
 - d. Currier, 2022: \$80 for year, 2 passes for 1/2 off
 - e. **MFA** \$200, up to 2 people \$10 admission, 70 Promo Codes
 - f. Gardner, \$195, up to 4 adults, \$5 admission
 - g. Portland Museum of Art, \$250, up to 2 adults free
 - h. Historic New England, \$125, adults and kids free
 - i. **Strawbery Banke**, \$150, Free family tickets
 - j. **Seacoast Science Center**, \$100, 50% discount on tickets.
 - k. The Fells, \$100, up to 2 people free
 - l. New one this year: Children’s Museum of ME: <https://www.kitetails.org/> - \$150, 50% discount for 4 people.
 - m. **\$2500 approved for museum passes.**
 - n. This is for the above passes (approximately \$1705 based on 2022 prices) and other museums to be discussed in future months.
 - o. NOT RENEWED: Squam Lake Science Center, 2022: \$300 for library memberships. This was not used.
12. New museum possibilities to be discussed over the next few months. Possibly have some field trips to check them out when they open.
- a. Peabody Essex \$425 was determined too much but we may want to do gift cards like for the aquarium.
 - b. American Aviation Museum in Londonderry, NH: <https://www.nhahs.org/>
 - c. NH Farm Museum: <https://nhfarmmuseum.org/>
 - d. New Hampshire Indian Museum: <https://www.indianmuseum.org/>
 - e. The NH Telephone Museum: <https://www.nhtelephonemuseum.org/>
 - f. Manchester Mill yard Museum and SEE science Center (Membership to the Manchester Historical Society gains membership to both: <https://manchesterhistoric.org/millyard-museum/> <https://see-sciencecenter.org/>)

Meeting adjourned: 7:50 PM

Next meeting: May 3, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary