

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday May 1, 2024; Called to order at 6:32 pm.

Present: Nancy Axelson, Melodee Carter-Guyette, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki
Liaison from the Trustees: Beth Fiorgione

Discussed:

1. Newburyport Literary Festival
Nana Kennedy missed us this year and would love for us to volunteer next year for their 20th anniversary. It will be held the last week in April.
2. April Minutes
We will wait until next month to approve these minutes since there was not a quorum this month.
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Current Balance: \$50,570.15
 - b. Budget will be ready for next month's meeting.
4. Trustees Report
 - a. Library Campus Plan: Erin presented a detailed plan for a Story Walk, Historical Garden, Reflective Garden and Conservation Garden. Board approved to move forward with this and will plan to put some of this funding in the 2025 budget. The budget is around \$80,000 for the total plan. Erin is working on some potential grants.
 - b. First action step will be to edit the current garden up front and start putting some of these plants in the Story Walk.
 - c. Erin found a landscaping person to do this at a reasonable rate.
 - d. Will look for volunteers to help.
5. Director's Report
 - a. Vernal Pools program - completed
 - i. 25 people
 - ii. There was a follow-up with the conservation commission to see vernal pools in the area.
 - b. Energy Commission program - Button Up
 - i. May 22nd
 - ii. NH State is handling all the details on this.
 - c. Junk Journal Crafts
 - i. May 11th
 - ii. Wendy is running this.
 - iii. Some sign-ups are still available.
 - d. Tech Connect
 - i. May 18th
 - ii. How to use an iPhone.
 - e. Pressed Flowers Craft
 - i. June 8th
 - ii. Erin will run this.

- f. Home Organizing
 - i. June 12th.
 - ii. Need Friends to help with snacks.
 - g. NH Humanities
 - i. June 26th
 - ii. Humanities Book Club - The Attack
 - iii. Free copies of the book will be handed out.
 - h. Strategic Plan
 - i. David is continuing to do interviews. He has set up some interviews with less regular library users. Still need parents of kids in school and dual income, no kids.
 - i. Friends Visibility
 - i. May need more visibility for Friends especially for finding new funding resources.
 - ii. David had a suggestion that the Friends introduce themselves at events that we fund.
 - iii. Maybe create a little card to give with museum passes.
 - iv. Work a little more on social media. Maybe post in the Friends of Hampton Falls FB group.
 - v. Have a donation box with a blurb next to it at events and also maybe in the library all the time.
 - j. Artist Reception Idea
 - i. There is some local artwork at the library and there is a plan to have this be rotating every 2-4 months.
 - ii. Joanna suggested the Friends consider having an artist reception.
 - iii. One idea would be to create a membership drive around art, chocolate and wine. Possibly in October. Will discuss this more in June.
 - k. Summer Reading
 - i. Joanna has spreadsheets ready to send out for the Friends to help with summer reading prizes.
 - ii. The Friends can create a Friends Basket as a prize, maybe a craft basket. Beeswax, candle wicks, maybe local honey. Beth has baskets. If any friends have items that would be good for a basket, please let Donna know.
 - iii. Joanna will provide the letter that the library uses for solicitation.
 - iv. Leah told us about a new program for Summer Reading given by the USS Albacore program on morse code and semaphore.
 - v. NH State is doing a scavenger hunt program with lots of fun prizes.
6. Little Free Library Sign Ups
[Friends of the HF Library: Stock Little Free Library \(signupgenius.com\)](http://signupgenius.com)
- a. Signups are complete through June 16th. There are some June weeks that need filling.
7. Mission Statement Brainstorming
- a. New Mission Statement Draft:
 The purpose of the Friends of the HFFL is to:
 - i. support the library by funding programs, resources, and community enrichment to supplement the library operating budget;
 - ii. promote awareness and advocate the use of library resources and
 - iii. champion public support of the library
 - b. Identity Statement
 The Friends of HFFL is a 501(c)3 organization comprised of dedicated volunteers across the community.
8. Library of Things
- a. Snowshoes, Telescope, Metal Detector, etc.

- b. We should promote these like we are promoting museum passes.
- c. Joanna will be working on a plan for storage for these items, how to plan and accept donations and a waiver policy for the Library of Things.
- d. When this is complete, we will talk about promotion.
- e. One possibility is to have a Day of Play with the Library of Things.
- f. We will revisit this at a future event.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **All:** Help with the summer reading prizes either contacting businesses or supplying prizes or items for baskets.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Next meeting: June 5 , 2024, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary