

# Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

**Date:** Wednesday Sept 4, 2024; Called to order at 6:30 pm.

**Present:** Nancy Axelson, Susan Burke, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Alisha Roberts, Jean Storer, Judy Wilson

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **All:** Select dates for the [Friends of the HF Library: Stock Little Free Library \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com) and other volunteer opportunities
- **Alisha:** Place detailed information for the annual report in the [Friends google drive](#).

## **DISCUSSED:**

1. Minutes
  - a. Alisha made a motion to approve the June 2024 Minutes; Motion passed with all in favor.
2. Parking Lot

Amy introduced the concept of a parking lot. Ideas gathered throughout the meeting can go in this section to go on an agenda in the next couple months.

  - a. Deborah has two programming ideas and will bring these in October.
  - b. Review last year's budget vs actual for library programming in anticipation of approving a budget for 2025.
  - c. Look into the possibility of creating Friends Swag like Tote Bags. Note: Enviro-Tote is a NH company that libraries around here use.
  - d. Discuss Friends of Library Week in November's meeting.
  - e. Explore the possibility of a Repair Clinic - we would need a champion for this.
  - f. Explore an Arts and Craft Swap. Newburyport Library had one recently.
3. Goals
  - a. Awareness - increase awareness of Friends and how we support the library.
  - b. Membership - increase membership by 5. Membership could mean anything from simply donating to showing up for all the meetings and any range of things in between.
4. Treasurer's report
  - a. Current Balance: \$48,519.13
  - b. Hannaford fundraiser just finished so no money has been received for this yet.
  - c. Paypal is set up. Venmo is a little more complicated because it has to be connected to a cell phone. We will stick with Paypal for now and see how that goes. Then maybe add Venmo.
  - d. The detailed information for the annual report will be placed in the Friends google drive by Alisha.
5. Trustees Report (given by Joanna)
  - a. Trustees are in budget season. Looking at a new fire alarm system.
  - b. Technology plan is being put together.
6. Director's Report
  - a. Erin working on 2 projects
    - i. Landscape Plan
      1. Got buy-in from town commissions.

2. First to be done will be a story walk and conservation garden, hopefully in spring. Large existing plantings may be moved this fall if the budget allows.
  3. The observation garden will be helped by the Conservation commission's prep grant. They will provide the plant stock.
  4. Got approval from Selectman to pursue this project.
- ii. ADA Doors
    1. Safety Complex, Historical Society Museum and Library have the doors, they just need the mechanisms to automate them. The town hall is more complicated.
    2. There are two quotes, 1 for just the library and a 2nd to do the whole town.
    3. CIP wants to do the whole town as one project including the safety complex, town hall, historical society museum as well as the library.
    4. Erin will submit RFPs for quotes and apply for grants to offset the cost.
- b. Adult Summer Reading
    - i. 82 adult readers participated and 403 books were read.
    - ii. A lot of excitement was generated.
  - c. Completed Programs
    - i. NH Humanities Book Club: The Attack by Yasmina Khadra
      1. 13 people attended on June 26th
      2. 25 books handed out
    - ii. New England Stone Walls with Kevin Gardener
      1. 31 people attended on July 10th.
    - iii. Cookbook
      1. 13 attendees.
    - iv. Rocket Quilt
      1. 40 people attended.
      2. Saturday morning program with good attendance, mostly adults.
    - v. Making Cockades
      1. 15 attendees on August 14th. It was mostly adults although it was billed as a family craft program.
    - vi. Lafayette and Human Rights - with Alan Hoffman
      1. 38 attendees on August 28th
  - d. Upcoming Programs
    - i. Tech Connect Program
      1. Google Apps
      2. Sept 14th
    - ii. Booksale
      1. Saturday, Sept 21st.
      2. Need volunteers for baking as well as some the week before to help organize.
    - iii. Art in NH
      1. NH Humanities
      2. Oct 9th
      3. Need refreshments for this
  - e. Strategic Plan
    - i. Joanne will be looking for a couple friends to participate in next steps with the plan. Things are moving along well with the draft mission and vision being worked on currently.
  - f. Museum Discussion
    - i. Portland Children's Museum \$150

1. This was previously approved so this will be purchased.
  - ii. Aquarium \$650
    1. The pass was not used a lot this summer due to issues with the timing and receiving it late. The hope is with more promotion, this will see more use.
    2. Judy made a motion to renew this.
    3. All in favor and approved.
    4. This will be good from Sept 2024 through May 2025.
7. Leah
  - a. Children's Summer Reading
    - i. 80 signed up; Over 60 turned in reading sheets.
    - ii. Hours were down. Parents are saying they didn't track things as closely. There is an app called Beanstalk that can track but it costs \$750 a year.
    - iii. One suggestion was to do days read with a minimum of 15 minutes for a day rather than tracking hours.
    - iv. Program Numbers
      1. Sages Entertainment - 56 attendees.
      2. Wildlife Encounters - 82 attendees.
      3. Blue Ocean - 6 (afternoon event)
      4. Morse Code - 7 (afternoon event)
      5. Carol and Crew - 21 attendees.
      6. Scratch Coding camp - 8 attendees for a week of classes.
      7. Pajama story time - 21 attendees.
  - b. 2025 Summer Reading programs are booked.
  - c. 3 children finished 1000 books before Kindergarten this week.
  - d. After School story time filled up within a couple hours.
  - e. Lego club, art club, silent reading club, comic club.
  - f. Leah has purchased Yodo, which is a device with audio and read alongs for picture books through middle grade. This has been very popular.
  - g. Wonder books were also purchased that have a read along component. There are a couple with some foreign language components.
8. Little Free Library Sign Ups
 

[Friends of the HF Library: Stock Little Free Library \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

  - a. Signups are needed for all weeks going forward.
9. Visibility for Friends
  - a. Need a volunteer from 10-12 at the Book sale to man a table for the Friends to talk to people.
  - b. There will also be a sign up for people to speak at the beginning of events.
10. Mission Statement
  - a. We will wait until the library mission statement is completed from the strategic plan before adopting our new one formally since the library is not far away from completing theirs.
11. Coordinating Community committees
  - a. Amy is looking into trying to get HF committees together to be able to have better synergy and sharing between town groups.
12. Friends of the Exeter Library
  - a. Idea Sharing Gathering for Rockingham County Friends on October 10.
  - b. Amy will be attending; if interested in going as well, contact Amy.
13. Friends of Libraries Week
  - a. Opportunity for communities to recognize Friends groups.
  - b. ALA has swag and promo materials.

- c. Oct 20 - 26th is the official week but maybe we can do it in the spring instead.
- d. We will discuss this at the November meeting.
- e. April is National Library week so maybe we can coordinate with that.

14. Repair Cafe

- a. A Repair Cafe is a program where patrons can learn skills from a professional.
- b. Amy attended a webinar on this run by the ALA.
- c. We would need about \$100 in research to determine how to run this.
- d. Newburyport had one in April last year.
- e. We would need a volunteer to chair this effort.

**Meeting adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

**Next meeting:** October 2, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Susi Burke, Secretary