

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday Oct 2, 2024; Called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Susan Burke (Arrived late), Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Desiree Potter, Deborah Regan, Jean Storer, Judy Wilson

ACTION ITEMS:

- **All:** Select dates for the [Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)
- **Desiree:** will provide refreshments for the Art in NH program on Oct 9th.
- **Jean:** will provide water for the Art in NH program on Oct 9th.
- **Amy:** will update the Friends flyer with QR code for volunteer list.
- **Desiree:** will look into inexpensive name tags for Friends.
- **Joanna:** details about checkouts for the Library of Things

PARKING LOT:

- Review last year's budget vs actual for library programming in anticipation of approving a budget for 2025.
- Look into the possibility of creating Friends Swag like Tote Bags. Note: Enviro-Tote is a NH company that libraries around here use.
- Discuss Friends of Library Week in November's meeting.
- Explore the possibility of a Repair Clinic - we would need a champion for this.

DISCUSSED:

1. What can we do to draw members?
 - a. Alisha had a member table at the booksale.
2. Minutes
 - a. Judy made a motion to approve the Sept 2024 Minutes; Motion passed with all in favor.
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Current Balance: \$48,223.03
 - b. Hannaford fundraiser: \$48
4. Trustee Report
 - a. Budget discussions will be coming up.
5. Director's Report (Joanna)
 - a. Booksale
 - i. Approximately \$2,000 was made from the book and bake sale.
 - b. The Brook
 - i. Misty and Tony picked up 4-5 boxes of books to send to Gerri for Mesquite. Judy sent pics via email and got an enthusiastic reply from Gerri.
 - ii. They suggested the Friends go to the new restaurant at the Brook.
 - c. Museum Discussion

- i. Deborah made a motion to purchase five \$50 NE Aquarium gift cards instead of \$650 membership which would require a booking software. We will revisit the full membership next year.
 - d. Upcoming Programs
 - i. Art in NH - Jane Oneail
 - 1. NH Humanities
 - 2. Oct 9th
 - 3. Desiree will provide refreshments.
 - 4. Jean will provide water.
 - ii. Tech Connect - managing your photo library
 - 1. 10:30 am on Sat Oct 12th.
 - iii. Book Club
 - 1. 6:30 on Oct 30th.
 - e. Strategic Plan
 - i. Action Planning Workshop to determine how to partner together.
 - ii. Monday Oct 14th - 4 hours plus lunch.
 - iii. Friends are welcome. Looking for 15 total with library staff, trustees and friends.
 - iv. The Strategic plan is scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.
 - f. Future Programs
 - i. See below
- 6. Gaming Update
 - a. No new info from Dover Gaming. We are not on the list as far as we know at this point.
 - b. They suggested looking closer to our town (like the Brook) because there is a need to find charities close to the gaming site.
 - c. It appears some changes to how charities are chosen are being looked at. We do not have details about exactly how it will work at this point. [This article](#) mentions it and the recent gaming study conducted for the NH government. [The study](#) seems to focus more on the state getting more revenue than on how to do charitable distributions fairly.
 - d. [This NHPR article](#) seems to have the best information about the state of charitable donations through gambling and selection criteria.
- 7. Youth Programming Report (Leah)
 - a. Storytimes - 2 morning and 3 afternoon storytimes
 - b. Lego, Art, Comic clubs and Messy Play also are provided.
 - c. Puzzle Competitions: Ravensburger will donate 20 puzzles (will do up to 50 puzzles) for 2 puzzle competition events a year. Also, they will provide some extra puzzles for prizes and accessories like puzzle trays.
 - d. Glen is back as Santa and the HF recreation commission looks like they will take over this event this year.
- 8. Community Collab
 - a. Rec Commission, PTO, Friends, Library got together and discussed challenges.
 - i. They agreed that a mailed Calendar for every event scheduled in town would be useful. The Rec Commission will pick up the cost of the first mailer.
 - ii. This group will meet again to coordinate December Holiday events.
- 9. Volunteer Sign Ups

[Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

 - a. Signups are needed for some weeks on Little Free Library and other volunteer opportunities.
 - b. Thank you to Library Staff for stocking up the book boxes from the book sale.
- 10. Visibility for Friends

- a. Membership Flyer - Amy created a Membership Flyer including QR code for donations. She will add a QR code for the Volunteer list as well.
 - b. This can be posted on FB from Friends and Library groups as well as at the Town Hall and Post Office.
 - c. Leah created a bookmark with Friends info and Events as well.
 - d. The volunteer list will include a sign up for people to speak at the beginning of events.
11. Library of Things
- a. New policies are being implemented including limits of how long things can go out and who can take different items out.
 - b. There is a need for volunteers to straighten the Library of Things area and identify broken items in Library Things. This will be added to the volunteer signup.
 - c. The Library of Things should be discussed once a year in the Friends meeting to determine what needs to be refreshed.
 - d. Joanna will bring us usage information for the Library of Things at the next meeting.
 - e. We should feature different items for different seasons.
12. Craft Swap
- a. Collect donations of unused craft supplies, maybe about 2 weeks before event.
 - b. Do we want this as a fundraising event or membership drive?
 - c. We could possibly have donations allow an early bird entry or free entry. Another good idea is to give early bird entry to those that make a donation/join the Friends.
 - d. We could set up a small craft sale corner with leftovers.
 - e. Winter would be good timing. We should check the Rec commission to see if they want to be involved.
13. 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.

NEW BUSINESS

- 14. Deborah would love an Eleanor Roosevelt historical event in March for Women's Month
- 15. Yankee Magazine would be great to get to present at a program. Deborah did not have any luck reaching someone there.
- 16. Some suggested items to get would be Ski passes, Portsmouth Music Hall passes, and other museum passes like maybe SEE Center or Planetarium.
- 17. Scarecrows on the Common:
 - a. The Friends will do a Library theme scarecrow on the common.
 - b. Amy will host a scarecrow making event and invite the Friends.
- 18. Boo Bash: This will be held by the Rec Commission.
 - a. Leah will be doing a storytime.
 - b. 5-7 pm Oct 25th.
 - c. Friends could do a craft or hand out candy at this event.
- 19. Name tags
 - a. Desiree might know an inexpensive way to obtain these. If not, Amy suggested possibly getting a button maker.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Next meeting: November 6 , 2024, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary
Deborah Regan (Took notes for first 20 minutes)