

**Friends of Kennebunk Free Library**  
**Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**January 9, 2023**

**Attending:** Peg Nelson, Diana Rush, Risa Oganessoff Heersche, D.D. Harrington, Donna Gomez (Vice-President, Friends), Barbara Berry, Carol Kelleher, Avonlea Dwight, Lori Parkinson, Rosemary Lavoie (President, Trustees), Laura Dauphinais, Linda DeFelice, Michelle Conners (KFL Director), Allison Atkins (KFL Assistant Director), Anita Randall (KFL Development Director), Deb Redding-Sampson (President, Friends) and meeting recorder

**Meeting called to order at 5:30**, with introductions and welcoming of old and new members

**Minutes of November 14, 2022**, were accepted unanimously (Peg, Laura)

**OLD BUSINESS**

**December pop-up book sale** netted \$104. Thanks to volunteers led by Donna and Peg and staff who assisted in keeping it stocked.

**Book Sorting Committee** is running smoothly. Peg and Donna noted they are condensing some NF categories to reduce volume and add space for more YA and children's books. Follow-up discussion was a helpful reminder to keep up to date with member requests to volunteer. **Peg will connect with Carol K.** and put out the call for substitutes as needed.

**2023 Membership Drive** has yielded 32 new / renewed memberships to date. Anyone signing up from October on is considered a member for the following year. 2022 had 60+ members. Friends expect 2023 memberships to grow especially during May Day and upcoming book sale outreach. **Deb will personally reach out to all new 2023 members.**

**Volunteer Recognition** cards are ready for a New Year mailing. Thank you to Brittany (staff) and Laura D. for seeing that through. **Deb will assist in signing and mailing.**

**Update of Friends Research and Web-Posting:** we continue to investigate how similar ME libraries recognize Friends on their websites. Suggestions include editing Friends flyer to have check-off boxes agreeing for member name/s to be on Friends web page; giving option to be a "Social Friend" (financial volunteer rather than active volunteer); and sharing Friends list among membership. To be continued..

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Library Updates** include **new staff member Ian Magill** (hired as PT, now FT) and a current open staff position for 17 hours. **Kate and Allison** are looking into having a **resident foster cat**, housed in a cat condo, with details being worked out (location, allergy issues, etc.).

**Anita** attended an October retreat hosted by Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation which allowed for productive networking with other NPOs. She submitted and received an **unrestricted grant for \$30,000** in December. The **2022 Holiday Giving Campaign (mid-November -January 7, 2023)** had an initial goal of \$10,000 with an additional challenge gift provided by Cole Harrison Insurance of \$2500. Both were met and in turn a stretch goal of \$30,000 was set and met. 263 donors gave \$30,791.36. As comparison, 2021 Holiday Giving

yielded 59 donors and \$5, 322.65 in contributions (and was email only campaign). Anita recognized the many generous donors who made this possible. We thank you, Anita.

**Friends Membership cards:** it was agreed to phase them out and just use updated member list at all Friends events (current members get 2 free books at sales, for example). **Michelle** will update the membership letter accordingly. Additional discussion on moving to email rather than print mailings resulted in continuation of the conversation going forward.

**Donna presented expanded pop-up book sale themes** such as Beach Reads, Gardening, Romance Novels, Murder and Mayhem, Poetry, Maine / New England Authors (and/or topics), Children's Books, and Individual Authors (i.e., Louise Penny). Other ideas welcome; tie themes to seasons, holidays, national themes (i.e., April / Poetry Month). Pop-up sales are easy to produce, last a week, and current inventory is strong. Michelle requested that planning be coordinated with KFL staff and events, and that Friends help monitor the sale during the week. Children's books can also be added to the on-going downstairs children book sale.

**Allison** reviewed the list of **library passes** Friends purchase each year and suggested some changes. Vote to let Allison proceed according to her professional opinion (Donna, Laura) was unanimous.

**2023 book sales and other events are May Day Book Sale (May 6), Blueberry Festival Book Sale (mid-late July), HarvestFest Book Sale (early-mid October).**

**Next meetings: April 10, 2023, September 11, November 6. All at 5:30 pm, location TBD.**

**Meeting adjourned (Donna) at 6:15 pm.**

**Respectfully,**

**Deb RS**