

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday Nov 3, 2021, in person and remote via Zoom/OWL

Present: Nancy Axelson, Susi Burke, Donna Onacki, Deborah Regan, Jane Shanahan, Jean Storer, Barbara Tosiano, Judy Wilson

Discussed:

1. October Minutes –Approved
2. Treasurer’s report - Accepted
 - a. Fingerprint check never cashed and it has been over a year so it will be voided
 - b. \$ 19658.39 on statement Library Director Report
 - c. Looks like \$100 check from Facebook. We will need to get report to find out who donated
3. Director’s Report
 - a. COVID Update: Masks in Library still, no large programs in Winter.
 - b. Storytime outside until snow – added a Wednesday afternoon one
 - c. Planning for Santa. Santa 2.0, pictures outside, Dec 4th in morning; Looking for cookies for that day
 - d. Polar Express Wed Dec 15^h and have people sign up for 3 diff time slots so it won’t be crowded
 - e. Look into Amazon Smiles, if we have this for the Friends and/or want to create it, Barbara will put it. Alisha found something from 2014. Alisha will look into this.
 - f. Possibly add Paypal button to donate to Friends on library website when do redesign for that.
 - g. Christmas Book Sale coming up soon
4. Museum Pass Updates
 - a. Indoor museums – not being used now; only outdoor ones being used, will re-evaluate in March but keep on agenda in case things change
5. Little Free Library
 - a. Issue with Signs by Little Library - metal feet broke. Judy replaced the feet. May want to move or remove them before plowing
 - b. Refresh the books using the inventory at library; even maybe shift between the two little libraries
6. Dover Poker Room
 - a. Donna contacted - should hear from them after new year
 - b. Notes from Donna’s email:
 - i. The Poker Room is going through an installation of the Old Historic Horse Race Machine. This will enable Dover Poker Room to work with 2 licensed charities per day.
 - ii. We no longer have to go to sign off in person, this will be expedited differently, and they are working through the details as we speak.
 - iii. Because of these updates, the 10 day schedule will be available after January 1, 2022.
 - iv. Tammy's information is as follows: Email tammy@anagnost.com, Cell phone 603-341-0230
 - v. They are still requiring background checks but they no longer need to be notarized.
 - c. Alisha will follow up in new year with Tammy if don’t hear from her.
7. Investing Funds
 - a. Trustees put some library money in CDs at People; should Friends do something similar?
 - b. Current rates look pretty low - Bank rate .5% for a year; Citizens .03% for CD
 - c. Alisha look into adding complexity to annual reporting
 - d. It was decided that we should focus on a spending plan; focusing on what would be valuable to the community

- e. Could help with walkway between the safety complex and library as well as writers workshop. Barbara will get back with more information at the next meeting about the walkway. Writers Workshop notes below
8. Completed Programs
- a. Thirteen Days: Untold Story of Cuban Missile Crisis Oct 5th
 - i. Michael Tougias
 - ii. Zoom, 22 people
9. Upcoming Options/New Ideas
- a. Sy Montgomery
 - i. How to be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals
 - ii. Sat, Nov 13th
 - iii. LAS Auditorium
 - iv. 70 seats reserved – sold out!
 - b. Life Downstairs program
 - i. Like Downton Abbey
 - ii. Humanities program; Ann McClennan
 - iii. Thursday December 2nd on Zoom
 - c. Writing Workshop
 - i. In memory of Alisha’s mom, Elaine Ahearn
 - ii. Sponsored by Friends
 - iii. Myf Collins does writing workshops; SNHU has writing programs as do other universities like UNH
 - iv. Maybe memoir writing?
 - v. Deborah mentioned Mary Johnson; has MFA in writing and wrote memoir, An Unquenchable Thirst. She leads writing workshops
 - vi. The Word Barn has writing workshops; not sure if they only do it at the Word Barn or if they do outreach as well
 - vii. Judy will look into this
10. 2022 Program Suggestions
- a. January – Travel
 - i. Scott Faiia – Ethiopia
 - ii. Let’s visit our National Parks with John Bunker
 - b. February- Black History Month
 - i. African American Soldiers and Sailors of NH during the American Revolution with Glenn Knoblock (NH Humanities)
 - ii. Whaling Captains of Color with Historic New England
 - c. March-Women’s History Month/St. Patrick’s Day
 - i. Role of Women in Irish History with Sean Murphy
 - ii. Ireland’s Great Famine with Mary Kelly (NH Humanities)
 - d. April- Earth Day
 - i. Big Trees of New Hampshire with Kevin Martin
 - ii. Heirloom Gardens with John Forti
 - e. Other suggestions
 - i. Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast – Artisan Bread, Weeknight Soups
 - ii. Great Bicycle Craze of the 1890’s – Historic New England
 - iii. Smaller Daytime Groups
 - iv. AARP in Q2 for Downsizing and Decluttering or Home fit
 - v. Junk Journals with Wendy Harrington
 - vi. Baskets with Carol Sanborn
 - vii. Art for adults
 - viii. Writers’ Workshop

- ix. Earth Day event - maybe do things outside, Mr. Fox composting and other companies that Barbara had contacted for original event that was cancelled due to COVID

Action Items:

- **Alisha:** Looking into Amazon Smiles
- **Alisha:** Checking into complexity of reporting investment income on annual report
- **Barbara:** Info about walkway for next meeting
- **Judy:** Research writing workshop options

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 PM

Next meeting: Dec 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary