Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday Jan 7, 2026; Called to order at 6:35 pm.

Present: Susi Burke, Allie Dipietro, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Alisha Roberts
On Zoom: Deborah Regan, Judy Wilson, Val Marshall
Liaison from the Trustees: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- **All**: Library volunteer opportunities are on this new volunteer link. Allie will administer this link going forward when she gets the login info.
- **All**: Refreshments are needed for January programs.

PARKING LOT:

- **February 2026 Meeting**: Discuss Library Week events for April
- **March 2026 meeting**: Discuss Portsmouth Historical Society.
- Explore the possibility of a Repair Clinic - we would need a champion for this.
- Review potential craft subscriptions.

DISCUSSED:

1. Minutes
    a. Alisha made a motion to approve the Nov 2025 Minutes; Motion passed with all in favor.
2. Goals for this cycle
    a. Awareness – increase awareness of Friends and how we support the library.
    b. Membership – increase membership by 5.
3. Treasurer's report
    a. Current Balance: $41,262.75
    b. Alisha gave a detailed report on expenses and donations for 2025. There will be some adjustments of categorization but it looks like the total budget of $10,000 of expenses funded by the library was pretty close to the actual expenditures.
    c. We will need to investigate funding options. Can we reach out at the PTO and Historical Society to see who to contact at the Brook? Judy has contacted Geri but never heard back from anyone at the Brook in Seabrook. Judy got contact info for Leslie Wiseman there. Alisha emailed her 2/5/25 and never heard back. Allie will try calling Leslie Wiseman, Alisha provided the phone number she had for Leslie.
4. Trustee Report
    a. No Trustees present.
5. Director's Report (Joanna)
    a. Cookbook sale was around $400
    b. December programs
        i. Cookie Exchange had about 11 participants
        ii. Winter Market was successful. 100 candles/80 bells were handed out.
        iii. Outreach with Police held in December.

iv. Both Kissing Ball craft sessions were full for a total of 24 people.

c. Upcoming Programs
    i. Jan 14th, 6:30, NH Fish and Game
        1. Program about Moose
        2. One signup for refreshments, need one more.
    ii. Jan 21st, 6:30 Scott Faia
        1. Festival in Katmandu
        2. Need refreshments for this as well, needs to be put on the signup genius.
    iii. Jan 31st, Mediation Morning programs
        1. Meditation Bottle craft.
        2. Tech Connect on how to get on OM Practice.
        3. OM Practice - Intro Class, stretching.
        4. Can do the OM Practice from home as well.

d. Gardens Update
    i. $500 Rye garden club donation came in.
    ii. 4 Story Walk signs have been paid for.
    iii. Some other donations came in as well.
    iv. Wendy is creating a web page for this.
    v. Big push planned for May.

e. As a result of the ALA award, Erin has been invited to speak at a conference.

6. Youth Programming Report (Leah)
    a. The Winter Olympics Reading Challenge has started.
    b. Glow in Dark Mini Golf will be held during school vacation week in Feb.
    c. Afterschool storytimes are full.
    d. ALA Pokemon club
        i. Sponsored by American Library Association in partnership with Pokemon company.
        ii. 2 big boxes of Pokemon stuff have been received.
        iii. The club is about playing the board game, not trading cards.
        iv. Starting at the end of January.
7. Volunteer Sign Ups
   Allie has volunteered to administer everything on this new volunteer link. Joanna will connect Allie with Laura to get the login to start to add the little free library slots and additional refreshments needed.
8. Adult Programming scheduled so far for 2026
    a. Jan: Fish and Game, Scott Faia
    b. Feb: Conversation with NH Secretary of State NH
    c. March: Braver Angels, Ken Burns Revolution
    d. April: Humanities Meg Mott Dec Independence and Constitution, Bedrock Gardens/Seed Bombs, Bird Boxes with Conservation
    e. May: Traveling Sisters Nature Photography, Seminars on hospice and palliative care and book community read - friends
    f. June: Alzheimer Awareness program
    g. July: Declaration of Independence NH Humanities
    h. Duncan Watson, Everyone's Trash
    i. Price Whimple, Black Heritage Trail
9. Funding Request
    a. Both Adult and Youth Budget
        i. $400 Winter Reading Challenge - $200 for Gunstock plus 4 $50 prizes.
        ii. $200 Speed Puzzle contest prizes

iii. ***$600 SUBTOTAL Y&A PROGRAMS***

b. Youth Budget
   i. $100 in discovery boxes
   ii. $600 for Mini Golf
   iii. $600 for Wildlife Encounter
   iv. $1,000 for Other Summer Reading Programs
   v. $300 Summer Reading Prizes
   vi. $200 Messy Play materials
   vii. $500 for Yoto and Wonder Book
   viii. $400 for Teen Book Boxes
   ix. $100 DK Earths Incredible Habitats/Eye Witness books
   x. ***$3,800 SUBTOTAL YOUTH***

c. Adult Budget
   i. $1,500 Craft programs: 6 Sessions @ $250
   ii. $200 Bedrock Gardens Program
   iii. $400 Hospice Speaker/ 20 Books
   iv. $250 Duncan Watson: Everyone's trash
   v. $500 Prince Whipple (Black Heritage Trail)
   vi. $100 Adult Clubs: French, Spanish, Cookbook, Tech Connect
   vii. $100 Winter Market
   viii. $100 Spanish Language Books
   ix. $250 Adult Summer Reading Prizes
   x. $400 Tent, Lights, Weights
   xi. ***$3,800 SUBTOTAL ADULT***

d. Museum passes
   i. ***$2,585 SUBTOTAL FOR MUSEUMS*** if the same as last year.

e. **TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED**: **$10,785 (Youth, Adult and Museum)**

10. Susi made a motion to approve ***$11,000 total for 2026 budget.*** The above breakdown has been provided as a plan but the Library will have flexibility to spend the budget as needed.
11. Braver Angels Webinar: If anyone is interested in checking out Braver Angels before the event in March, here is the information for an online program they are hosting: ** Note All events are free and do not require physical tickets. Use promo code "BRAVER" when signing up.*
    a. **Skills for Disagreeing Better** (January 17, 2-3:45pm ET) Sign up here.
    This interactive workshop teaches careful listening. Learn how to seek out common ground and share perspectives in ways that connect rather than generate misunderstanding. Questions? Contact Abe Dana at adana@braverangles.org.
12. Friends Drive: The main Friends Google Drive HFF Friends Communication Drive is not working and receives a 404 Error (not found). It appears that Donna set that folder up under her personal email, not the FriendsofHFFL@gmail.com email and that the main folder is now deleted. Any subfolders set up by other people probably still exist but we would need to find them. We should discuss this more in February if possible.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Next meeting: ***Thursday Feb 5, 2026, at 6:30 pm*** (diff day because of conflicts with deliberative session)

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary