

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday Feb 4, 2025; Called to order at 6:37 pm.

Present: Nancy Axelson, Susan Burke, Joanna Meighan, Alisha Roberts. On Zoom: Amy Dorgan, Val Marshall, Deborah Regan, Judy Wilson. Liaison from the Trustees: No one attended.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **All:** Select dates for the [Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com). There are Feb dates that need to be filled.
- **Amy:** Will send a recording and slides to everyone for the ALA Webinar on the Library of Things.
- **Joanna:** Discuss OM practice at staff meeting Wed, Feb 5 and make decision on whether to go with it.
- **Amy:** will reach out to the Rec commission to let them know that we are funding OM if that is the decision and we would like to partner with them and have them promote it.

PARKING LOT:

- 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 Jan 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. Membership has increased by 1. A couple people signed up on Sunday and some volunteers for the library.
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Current Balance: \$47, 066.08
4. Trustee Report
 - a. No Trustee here tonight
5. Director's Report (Joanna)
 - a. Completed Programs
 - i. Scam Talk - FBI Special Agent Kimberly Blackwood
 1. Thursday, Jan 16 at 6:00 pm.
 2. The Recreation Commission co-sponsored this.
 3. 33 people attended - lots of newcomers came.
 - ii. French Music, History and Entertainment
 1. Wed Jan 22 at 6:30 pm.
 2. Friends of the Bandstand, Franco American Center in Manchester and Library French Together group all participated.
 3. Funded by Friends of HFFL.
 4. 43 people attended.
 - b. Upcoming Programs

- i. February
 - 1. Aquaculture
 - a. Wednesday Feb 12th at 6:30 pm.
 - b. Presenters may include UNH, Swell, SHEA, Daily Haul.
 - c. Snacks will be needed.
 - ii. March
 - 1. Invasive species
 - 2. Conservation commission is sponsoring and probably providing snacks
 - c. 2024 Numbers
 - i. Increased everything: programs held, programs attendance, circulation.
 - d. State Library - A candidate for State Librarian was put forth and then pulled back because the candidate did not support censorship. There was a misstatement that the State Librarian has local control which they do not. Seacoast librarians sent a letter in support of her and many Seacoast reps supported the librarians letter but not the HF reps. Right now there is a hiring freeze on the position. Joanna will send the letters so we can see them. Maybe Seacoast friends groups will combine to send a letter allowing members to individually sign on if they choose.
6. Youth Programming Report (Leah)
- a. Leah was unable to attend but didn't have requests.
 - b. Some slowdown in attendance because of LAS school play and pickup hockey.
 - c. Games Day, March 8th. Looking for volunteers to run games. Diversions game store is excited to help. Maybe providing prizes.
7. Charitable Gaming
- a. Deborah reached out to Deb Altschiller but didn't get much of a response from her in regards to whether gaming rooms will need to choose local charities.
 - b. Brook has HF Historical Society and PTO as selected charities; they want credit in return for choosing charities. Historical society mentioned the Brook in their Lafayette program. Is there a project that complements the strategic plan that involves children and/or accessibility that we can propose? Something that targets children literacy and gives the Brook visibility. Judy will forward the email from Gerri Chasko to Alisha with the contact from The Brook, Leslie Wiseman, who is the Charity Liaison. We may want to have a plan for what we would earmark the funds for. Some suggestions would be Technology for programming (Hearing Loop, Display Board, Tablets), children's space, creating and maintaining a Makerspace and the Summer Reading program.
8. Volunteer Sign Ups
- [Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)
- a. Updated with 2025 Little Free Library slots - Feb 17 open slot.
 - b. Amy will update with slots for refreshments for programs.
9. Town Report Friends Summary
- a. Amy completed this.
10. OM Practice
- a. Online fitness and mindfulness. Meditation, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, QiGong.
 - b. 100 live video classes a week plus video library.
 - c. The Recreation Dept has their budget slashed so unable to do this.
 - d. Cost is \$750/year
 - e. Deborah made a motion to approve the \$750 to purchase this if approved by Joanna after her staff meeting tomorrow. All in favor.
 - f. Sam Tackeoff, one of the co-founders (from Rye), provided this link for us to test out the memberships on their demo membership:

<https://app.ompractice.com/memberships/demo-membership> and an example of their [library onboarding kit](#).

- g. Can have a program to kick this off. Sam mentioned that she would lead one if we wanted.
- h. What would be good metrics to determine success for this?
- i. Amy will reach out to the Rec commission to let them know that we are funding this and we would like to partner with them and have them promote it.

11. Artist Receptions

- a. Library will be hosting various art installations.
- b. Would the Friends be interested in hosting gallery open receptions? Every 2 months is the current pace for changing the installation.
- c. Maybe do a kids program in conjunction with the gallery opening at the same time.
- d. Dry Cellar in Portsmouth may be interested in doing a tasting.
- e. Feb 19th is the first opening. Need refreshments and social media cross promotion.

12. National Library Week in April

- a. Some possibilities
 - i. Team lunch for staff meeting (Wednesday).
 - ii. Snacks for break room.
 - iii. Gift cards, flowers, massages.
 - iv. Social media posts.

13. Promotional Material/Souper Sunday

- a. Souper Sunday was a success from groups working together.
- b. Town turnout was disappointing. Need to debrief to find out why.
- c. Maybe do volunteer recognition if we do it again; a celebration to encourage people to come.
- d. The Historical Society had a really nice set of promotional materials.
- e. Look into name tags. Joanna will ask Wendy where the historical society got theirs.
- f. Amy will check with Leah about the tablecloth idea.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:03.

Next meeting: March 5 , 2025, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary