

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday April 3, 2024; Called to order at 6:40 pm.

Present: Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki, Alisha Roberts, Jane Shanahan, Judy Wilson

Liaison from the Trustees: Laura Pouliot

Via Zoom: Susi Burke, Deborah Regan, Jean Storer

Discussed:

1. March Minutes

Donna made a motion to approve the March 2024 Minutes; Motion passed with all in favor, Susi abstained since she wasn't there in March.

2. Treasurer's report

- a. Current Balance: \$51,120.15
- b. One check is outstanding from the Trustees of Reservation for \$200.
- c. A \$350 check for the New England Aquarium will go out soon.
- d. No updates from Charitable gaming. We anticipate that we will not be getting a slot this year.

3. Trustees Report

- a. The last Trustee meeting focused a lot on the Strategic Plan.
- b. Library Campus Plan: Erin presented an idea for creating a plan to turn lesser used areas outside of the library into usable outdoor "rooms" including a story walk, sensory garden, historic garden, conservation garden. There will likely be a 7 year plan created and applying for grant funding was discussed. As this idea becomes more solidified, the Friends will learn more.
- c. ADA Doors for the library and town hall are being investigated. There is a desire to do all the town buildings together to be able to apply for grant funding and for cost savings.

4. Director's Report

- a. Genealogy Program
 - i. 21 people attended
 - ii. It was well received
 - iii. The Genealogy Club started with two sessions on March 22 (1-3 and 3-5). The next meeting on April 19 from 1-3 will get the club on a regular schedule of the 3rd Friday of each month.
- b. Strategic Plan
 - i. 32 people attended the kickoff for the Strategic Plan.
- c. Tech Connect
 - i. The latest Tech Connect program was on Photography.
 - ii. There will be 6 in total and then they will be offered again for those that missed it.
 - iii. Upcoming Tech Connect programs include: Libby, YouTube, iPhone
- d. Vernal Pools
 - i. April 24 at 6:30.

- ii. Done in conjunction with the Conservation Commission
- iii. They will cover refreshments so the Friends are not needed for that.

e. Summer Reading

- i. Leah was able to get a few passes from Storyland.
- ii. The library would like the Friends to tackle the project to get the Summer Reading Prizes since it is time consuming.
- iii. Churchills, Quicksilver, Galley Hatch, have been requested.
- iv. Laura suggested going in person and bringing a letter with 501(c)(3) info and address. Maybe include a self addressed stamped envelope.
- v. Would be helpful to know what businesses have given in the past.
- vi. Generally give around \$20/\$25 but it can vary.
- vii. The Friends could create prize baskets as well.
- viii. Usually there are 6 or 7 adult prizes and 3 segments with 10-12 prizes each for children prizes.
- ix. Joanna has a google spreadsheet which will be shared and a letter that will have the information about donating. The Friends will put our names on whichever ones we can do.
- x. Leah was thinking about Treetop Ziplines maybe as the grand prize.

5. Trustees

- a. Meet and Greet with Trustees and Friends, Wednesday April 10, 6:30, National Library Week.
- b. Begin with a recap of the strategic plan. The rest of the time will be social.
- c. The Trustees will be providing refreshments.
- d. We will play a game with 1 truth/1 lie.

6. Little Free Library Sign Ups

[Friends of the HF Library: Stock Little Free Library \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

- a. Signups are complete through June. There are some June weeks that need filling.

7. Mission Statement Brainstorming

- a. Stimulate the use of library's resources
- b. Want to have objectives each year that relate to the mission statement
- c. From Deborah:
"The Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) that supports the library with fundraising, advocacy, enrichment and community awareness"
- d. From Desiree (Feb Meeting Minutes): "Our focus is to ignite (champion/advocate) community engagement through supplemental programs that benefit library patrons of all ages."
- e. From Susi (Feb Meeting Minutes): "Facilitating access, engagement, and enrichment for community members of all ages in Hampton Falls in collaboration with the librarian and Trustees."
- f. From Exeter Friends: The mission of The Friends of the Exeter Public Library is to support and cooperate with the Exeter Public Library in obtaining resources and services for the public through fundraising, advocacy and volunteering. The Friends of the Exeter Public Library is formed exclusively for charitable, literary and educational purposes as specified in Sec 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.
- g. Generated based on our keywords from last meeting: "Empowering our community through advocacy, engagement, and enrichment, The Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library champions the power of knowledge and promotes lifelong learning for community members of all ages. We are a 501(c)(3) dedicated to fostering connection and discovery through the Hampton Falls Free Library."

8. ALA Membership
 - a. Amy found the Center for Future of Library through ALA. It appears to be somewhat dormant now but it has some good information. Amy has shared some of the documents with the group on topics such as Fast Casual Dining, Co-Working and Maker Space.
 - b. The ALA webinar topic for April is not really relevant but May is about Libraries Building Businesses. Amy will set up a viewing party for that one.
9. Plant a Row
 - a. Laura and Amy discussed the program called [Plant a Row that is sponsored from UNH/4H](#).
 - b. You grow a row of produce and donate it to the food bank.
 - c. Would it be possible to distribute the kits through the library?
 - i. This might be possible but they would probably require having the people who receive the kits to sign up for the program so they know where the kits went.
10. Memory Lab
 - a. Susi brought up investigating the possibility of the library having a “memory lab” that would go along with the Genealogy Club.. [Here is an article about these](#). “Memory Labs are sprouting up at libraries around the country with the main purpose of helping community memories digitize their personal memories. These labs are stocked with the technology, equipment, and expertise needed to guide people through the process.”
11. Silent Reading Club
 - a. There was some discussion about the information Susi had emailed regarding [silent reading clubs](#) and [the potential for libraries to host them](#).
12. Adults With Dementia
 - a. There was also some discussion about some “storytime” or book club or craft/sensory activities for older adults with dementia.

ACTION ITEMS:

Joanna: Share Summer Reading Prize google sheet and letter with Friends.

Friends: Sign up for approaching businesses for summer reading prizes.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Next meeting:

May 1, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary