DRAFT Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Thursday May 6, 2026; Called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Nancy Axelson, Susi Burke, Allie DiPietro, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Val Marshall, Joanna Meighan, Alisha Roberts, Judy Wilson **Liaison from the Trustees:** None

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Alisha**: purchase a domain for the Friends from Go Daddy.
- **Susi**: Re-apply for Google for Non Profit when domain is confirmed
- **All**: Library volunteer opportunities are on this volunteer link.
- **All**: Attend Summer Reading Kickoff; Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Story Garden on June 20th if possible.

PARKING LOT:

- Explore the possibility of a Repair Clinic - we would need a champion for this.
- Review potential craft subscriptions.

DISCUSSED:

1. Minutes
    a. Val made a motion to approve the April 2026 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: $38,751.63. Note: This includes some garden donations.
    b. Checks outstanding >$1,200
4. Trustee Report
    a. No Trustees present.
5. Director's Report (Joanna)
    a. Report attached at the bottom.
    b. Great event with Jill Nooney; Deborah did a great job introducing the Friends, Trustees and Staff.
    c. Pontine theatre coming this month, May 20. Unique form of storytelling. Coming for free because they love our library.
    d. Adult Bookclub is doing *Stepping Stones Stepping-Stones: Following a Pathway to the End of Life* by Ellie Atherton. Author led book group on May 27, book discussion May 29.
    e. FBI Series kicks off onThursday June 4th during lunch speaking on Cybercrime. One per month for 3 months.
    f. Sat June 20th Summer Kickoff from 11-1. Ribbon cutting for the Garden. Lawn Games and fun. ***Friends to attend if possible.***
6. Youth Programming Report (Leah)
    a. Joanna handed out one-sheets for Summer Reading requests and Leah has a children's version.
    b. Leah has a list of vendors and will revise it and send it out.
7. Sign ups for Little Free Library are on this volunteer link.

8. Fundraising
    a. Alisha tried connecting with Mike at The Brook. She waited 45 minutes but he didn't show up.
    b. Try again in the fall since it will be difficult to get anyone's attention until then.
9. Google Non Profit
    a. Alisha will try getting the domain on Go Daddy since Namecheap wouldn't let it go through.
    b. Once that is confirmed, we will try applying for the free Google Workspace which will allow us to have multiple Friends emails and manage google drive space more effectively. Museum Passes
10. OM pass
    a. $23/member, $9/class
    b. Only 1 subscriber used it for 3 or 4 classes a month for the last couple months.
    c. Although it is important to offer services to people in town who don't come to the library, we don't seem to be getting much uptake on this despite effort.
    d. $750 for a year.
    e. Maybe take a break for the summer and revisit in fall.
11. Meeting Date for Trustees meeting
    a. Joanna wants to arrange a group meeting with Friends and Trustees.
    b. Susan from the French club that can come and talk about Fundraising with all of us.
    c. Will do the June meeting early for the Friends at 6 for elections, Trustees will join at 6:30.

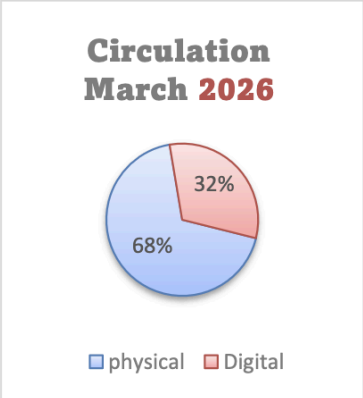
Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 7:15.
Next meeting: Wed June 3, 2026, at **6:00 pm (½ hr early)*; Trustee/Friends gathering to follow***

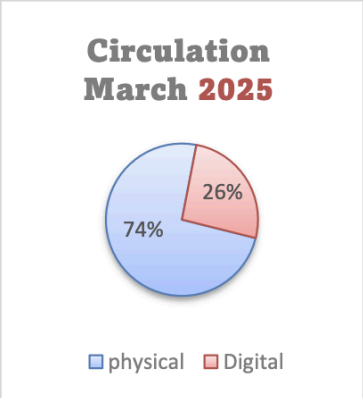
Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary

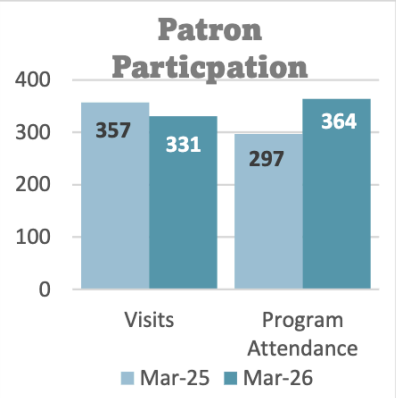
DIRECTORS REPORT (sent via email before meeting):

Library Director's Report for May 6, 2026
Quote of the month:
"Thank you for hosting Wednesday's program on the Pursuit of Happiness. Alison and I so enjoyed our time at your beautiful and vibrant library. The discussion amongst the various participants gives me faith in our country's capacity to take up the cause of happiness. And thank you also to Leah for helping us set the stage. She helped us to see how cozy the presentation could become."- Meg Mott, Presenter, New Hampshire Humanities

Noteworthy News:
Leah received a grant for toys and games as part of the Play for Resilience™ campaign for Mental Health Awareness Month this May with MESH Helps! This national initiative brings together MESH Helps, the American Library Association, and partners across the toy industry to support children's mental, emotional, and social health (MESH), through play.







Statistics for March 2026:	2026	2025
Visits	457	357
New Patrons	6 (15 YTD)	8(18 YTD)
Total Circulation	1,924	2,024
Digital Media	575	523
Programming		
Adult Programs	23	16
Attendance	151	139
Multi-age Programs	1	
Attendance	18	
Youth Programs	27	24
Attendance	195	158

Adult Programs:

French Together Tuesdays 11-noon (Attendance range 7-10 weekly)
Knitwits Tuesdays 3-5pm (Attendance range 4-5 weekly) 68%2%
La Conexión Española Wednesdays 5-6pm (Attendance range 3-4 weekly)
Digital Discovery Fridays 2-4pm (Attendance range 1-3 weekly)

- April 4 YA Not Book Club Best of All Worlds by Kenneth Oppel (3)
- April 4 Game Day (15)
- April 8 Community Connection: Hampton Falls Police Department (6)
- April 10 Adult Book Box—sponsored by the Friends (14)
- April 11 Family Crafting: Make a Bird Box! co-hosted with and sponsored by the Hampton Falls Conservation Commission (32)
- April 15 The Pursuit of Happiness: What Were the Founding Fathers Thinking? with Historian Meg Mott (12)
- April 22 Making Seed Bombs with the Ipswich River Watershed Association (23)
- April 22 Bedrock Gardens: Trials and Tribulations with Jill Nooney—sponsored by the Friends (26)
- April 29/May 1 Adult Book Club: Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention--and How to Think Deeply Again by Johann Hari (15, 6)
- May 2 Game Day! (6)
- May 2 Ya Not? Book Club: The Grove by Brooks Whitney Phillips (4)

Upcoming Events:

- May 12 Community Connection: Hampton Falls Fire Department
- May 16 Adult Crafting: Gourd Gnomes—sponsored by the Friends
- May 20 Pontine Theater Presents: The Flat Iron Lot by Alice Brown, meet the performers and go behind the scenes
- May 21 Community Connection: Hampton Falls Building Inspector
- May 27/29 Adult Book Club: Stepping-Stones: Following a Pathway to the End of Life by Elli Atherton. Author led book group on May 27, book discussion May 29. Copies of 20 books distributed to the community—sponsored by the Friends
- June 4: first of four: FBI Speaker-lunchtime Series Cyber Crime

Youth Programs

Under 5 story times: Tuesday brown bag at noon and Thursday morning
After school story times: Tuesday and Thursday sessions
Kindergarten club: Wednesday after school
Silent Reading Club-Every Friday after school

- April 8 Lego Club (7)
- April 15 Art Club (2)
- April 19 Messy Play (8)
- April 22 Pokemon Club (4)

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