

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday May 7, 2025; Called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Susi Burke, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Val Marshall, Joanna Meighan, Desiree Potter, Deborah Regan (on line), Alisha Roberts, 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).
- **Judy:** will ask the Historical Society to see if they have ideas for museum passes for historical sites.
- **Joanna:** Send the Funding and Legislative Threats document to Friends (completed)
- **Joanna:** Provide information that the Friends need to update the web page for the Friends on the library website.

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 March 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: \$45,374.22
4. Trustee Report
 - a. No Trustee attended tonight.
5. Director's Report (Joanna)
 - a. Completed Programs
 - i. Bringing Family Stories to Life, April 30th
 1. Tech Connect and Genealogy combined.
 2. It was a fun program.
 3. They explored ways that technology can help put stories and artifacts together.
 - ii. Puzzle Competition, April 5th
 1. 27 people attended.
 - iii. Family Crafting at the Library: Bird Boxes, April 12th, 2 sessions
 1. Co-sponsored with the Conservation Commission.
 2. 52 people came.
 - iv. Sustainability: An American Literary History with Abby Goode, April 16th
 1. Sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities and the Friends of the Library.
 2. Small program but interactive.
 - b. Funding Issues

- i. IMLS
 - 1. Funded through Sept this year.
 - 2. Funding in question after tha. No money allocated in Trump's proposed budget.
 - 3. Funding issues are working their way through courts now.
 - 4. Interlibrary loans and digital access through Libby and Talking Books are all affected by this.
 - ii. NH State Library
 - 1. NH State House proposed significant Budget Cuts to state library.
 - c. Upcoming
 - i. One Room Schoolhouse
 - 1. Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30pm
 - 2. Historical Society and Friends will co-sponsor.
 - 3. Originally a NH Humanities but too late in the process to cancel.
 - ii. Adult Crafting: Decorating Gourds
 - 1. Saturday, May 17th 10:30 am
 - iii. Unmasking AI Book Club
 - 1. Wednesday, May 28th, 6:30pm
 - iv. Humanities programs for summer were cancelled because funding was pulled.
 - d. Erin won the **ALA award for Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr. Award for Innovation and Service to Community and Profession.**
 - i. She will go to Philadelphia to receive an award at the national conference.
 - ii. Three days of conference is covered but she will need money for lodging, food, etc.
 - iii. Judy motioned for the Friends to fund \$1,000 for this trip. Motion passed with all in favor.
 - iv. Wednesday June 11 the library will host a reception to celebrate Erin and the award.
 - v. Volunteers will be needed for this event. Joanna will bring details at the next meeting.
 - e. Strategic Plan
 - i. Creating a new logo is in process.
 - ii. Promoting Erin has been a focus (see ALA award above).
 - iii. Volunteer Policy and Volunteer Opportunities are being worked on.
 - iv. Joanne held a meeting revisiting the strategic initiatives. They are doing really well on the timeline.
 - v. The Landscape Plan is the biggest initiative in the works currently. Conservation Garden is fully funded at this point.
 - vi. Trustees will create a small committee specifically for Landscape planning, budgeting etc.
 - vii. Waiting to find out about funding from the Historical Society for the Historical Garden.
 - viii. A number of grants that the library was hoping for for this and the ADA initiative have dried up. Joanna will come back with a private funding plan.
 - ix. At Erin's reception we will try to generate interest in funds for the gardens. Possibly ask for donations at the reception to show support. Maybe the Friends can hold a fall plant sale to raise money for the gardens.
6. Youth Programming Report (Leah)
- a. Summer Reading
 - i. Leah created a letter to send to area businesses asking for summer reading prizes.
 - ii. Robot Petting Zoo is funded by the Friends. This was originally going to be funded by NH Humanities.
 - iii. Kids will get tickets for counting days rather than minutes read and also tickets for coming to the library.

- iv. Kids Craft Fair will kick off the Summer Reading. Rec may contribute to this kick off. There was a suggestion that people could contribute some lawn games to the event.
 - v. Prizes are needed for Adult Summer Reading. There is money in the Friends budget that has already been allocated for this.
 - b. Teen Book Box
 - i. 6 teens got the last teen book boxes.
 - ii. Leah is hoping to get more signing up for the next set of boxes.
- 7. Volunteer Sign Ups
[Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](#)- Little Free Library slots are looking good.
- 8. Museum Passes
 - a. U.S.S Constitution has a free library pass.
 - b. Maybe coordinate with the Historical society to promote history museums. Could they suggest museums that might be good? Judy will ask them to see if they have ideas.
 - c. Promote library museum passes through the school newsletter before summer vacation.
 - d. We can ask for suggestions for new museums from patrons at the library and maybe through a google form or school poll.
- 9. Active Advocates for Library
 - a. Volunteer policy needs updating because of insurance so pursuing active advocates is on hold until that is completed.
- 10. Logo and Awareness
 - a. Amy is looking for someone to do research to see if other Friends groups have separate logos, separate pages and what they look like.
 - b. Library is currently working on their logo. Joanna is planning on using the colors of the current web page.
 - c. It is possible that the Friends might be able to update the current page on the library website to make it clearer that it is the Friends page. The library is switching vendors soon but hopefully if changes are made they will carry over. Joanna will provide details on how to do this. This will hopefully prevent some of the emails that have been going to the Friends.
 - d. Elections for Friends Board will be at the June meeting.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 7:51.

Next meeting: June 4 , 2025, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary