

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday Sept 3, 2025; Called to order at 6:36 pm.

Present: Susi Burke, Allie Dipietro, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Alisha Roberts, Judy Wilson
Liaisons from the Trustees: No trustee in attendance at this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **All:** Select dates for the [Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com).
- **All:** Snacks are needed for the Tea Leaf Reading program on Oct 22.
- **All:** Bake Sale items are needed for Sept 20th Book Sale.
- **Judy:** Send Thank you note for the Book Box donation.

PARKING LOT:

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

DISCUSSED:

1. Minutes
 - a. Judy made a motion to approve the June 2025 Minutes; Motion passed with all in favor.
2. Goals for this cycle
 - a. We discussed whether these goals were still relevant for the upcoming year and agreed that the Friends still need more awareness and membership.
 - b. Awareness – increase awareness of Friends and how we support the library.
 - c. Membership – increase membership by 5.
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Current Balance: \$40,938.73
 - b. Alisha finished the 2024-2025 Annual Report which is from July 2024-June 2025. For that fiscal year, the friends spent \$6,597.89 and received \$898. She will submit this report.
4. Trustee Report
 - a. No trustees at this meeting.
5. Director's Report (Joanna)
 - a. Adult Summer Reading
 - i. Great success!
 - ii. 84 readers
 - iii. 454 books
 - b. ALA Summary from Erin was emailed to everyone.
 - c. Adult Book Boxes
 - i. New program for Adults based on Teen Book Box program.
 - ii. A \$500 donation was given to start the program. That money will be deposited in the Friends account and be used throughout the year for the adult book boxes. Judy will send a Thank You note.

- iii. The program will start quarterly and be evaluated to see if changes are necessary.
- d. Discovery Gardens update
 - i. It was too hot this summer to plant much so progress was halted temporarily.
 - ii. Progress will start again in September on the Story Walk.
 - iii. Funding has been approved to finish the Historical Garden and do the Story Walk.
 - iv. The Reading Garden will be started after those are completed.
- e. Museum Passes
 - i. Good usage for passes this summer: 13 in May, 12 in June, 11 in July, 14 in August
 - ii. Mount Washington Weather station used 8 times so this was a good choice.
 - iii. USS Constitution has free library passes that may be worth investigating.
 - iv. The Aquarium pass was purchased in July but has not shown up. Joanna emailed to follow-up.
- f. OM Practice
 - i. July Stats:
 - 1. Total Members: 26
 - 2. New members in July: 3
 - 3. Classes: 10 live classes, 5 video classes
- g. Book/Bake Sale
 - i. Saturday, September 20th 10am-2pm
 - ii. Looking for volunteers for the bake sale since Scouts will not be available this year.
- h. Library Trustees Association
 - i. There will be a Friends Group Meeting on Sept 27, 10-2.
 - ii. This will be held at Hooksett Public Library.
- i. Upcoming Programs
 - i. Adult Book Club
 - 1. Wednesday, September 24th at 6:30pm
 - 2. You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington by Alexis Cole
 - ii. Tech Connect
 - 1. Saturday, September 27 at 10:30 am.
 - 2. Taming your photos with Wendy
 - iii. Cookbook Club
 - 1. Saturday, October 11th at Noon
 - 2. Cookish: Throw it Together by Christopher Kimball
 - iv. Tea Leaf Reading Workshop
 - 1. Wednesday, October 22nd at 6:30 pm.
 - 2. Roxie Zwicker – Join Maine's Mystery Maven for delicious divination.
 - 3. Friends are funding this program.
 - 4. Friends will provide snacks for this.
 - v. Winter Carnival on the Common
 - 1. This will be associated with the Farmer's Market.
 - 2. Santa will be there so the library will not host a Santa party this Christmas.
 - 3. This will be held Dec 6th.
 - vi. Community Calendar
 - 1. The Rec committee is taking on the project producing a Hampton Falls community calendar.
 - 2. The Library provided information about their events but they haven't been told any details about when the calendar may come out.
 - 3. The plan was for a mailed postcard.

6. Youth Programming Report (Leah)
 - a. Summer Reading
 - i. Great participation this year and enthusiasm for programs:
 1. Summer Reading program: 90 signups this year for the reading program. The program was based on the number of days read and that worked well and was less stressful.
 2. High Flying Dog: 104 people
 3. Wildlife Encounters: 70 participants
 4. Nitrogen Ice Cream: 50 participants.
 - ii. Next year the program will likely be 6 weeks next year instead of 7 weeks since there was not much participation in the last week.
7. Memo of Understanding between Trustees and Friends
 - a. Some small changes were requested.
 - b. We will promote and collaborate on fundraising events and campaigns but not be responsible for the fundraising. The Friends will collect and track the donations for the gardens and provide financial reports to the Trustees.
 - c. The gardens are now called "Discovery Gardens: Our Library's Living Landscape"
8. Volunteer Sign Ups
[Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)- There are some Little Free Library slots open for fall. Please look and sign up for any open slots.
9. Oct Friends Meeting
 - a. LAS Curriculum night is the same night as the Friends Oct meeting.
 - b. Susi made a motion to move the meeting to Oct 8th at 6:30h; Motion passed with all in favor.
10. Friends of the Library Week
 - a. Story Walk - maybe have an event about this
 - b. Getting representatives from some orgs that we have museum passes to come and present what they have to offer. Strawberry Banke, State Parks, Bedrock Gardens.
 - c. Pretzel Yoga for kids from OM Practice.
 - d. Bookmark to give out from the Friends for awareness.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:04.

Next meeting: Oct 8 , 2025, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary