

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday Oct 8, 2025; Called to order at 6:36 pm.

Present: Nancy Axelson, Susi Burke, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Deborah Regan, Alisha Roberts, Erin Sniderman, Judy Wilson
Liaisons from the Trustees: Beth Forgione, Laura Pouliot

ACTION ITEMS:

- **All:** Select dates for the [Friends of the HF Library: Volunteer Signup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com).
- **All:** Pay dues next month.
- **Susi:** Reach out to Alnoba and see if they offer Library passes for events. (*completed*)
- **?:** *Can friends do something at Boo Bash on Oct 24th?*

PARKING LOT:

- **January 2026 Meeting:** Discuss Library Week events for April
- **March 2026 meeting:** Discuss Portsmouth Historical Society.
- 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 Sep 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: \$41,127.17
 - b. 3 checks are still outstanding. Balance will be \$39,175.65 when these clear.
 - c. Little Free Libraries needed cement for \$375. Judy made a motion to approve these funds; motion passed with all in favor.
4. Trustee Report
 - a. A Memorandum of understanding between the Friends and Trustees has been approved.
 - b. The committee is meeting tomorrow about the donation forms. Beth was looking for feedback about putting term limits on "naming rights" donations, maybe 20 or 25 years?
 - c. Beth proposed setting up a trust fund for garden maintenance connected to the town's trust and having it in the Friends name. The Friends would need to make deposits for maintenance funds when someone donates to the Friends with that request and they would need to request interest/earnings to use for the maintenance. They would not be committing to do the solicitations for the funds. Beth will have a meeting with an attorney and come back to us with a clear definition of what this means to Friends at a future meeting.
 - d. Strategic Planning event will be held on Oct 15th at 6:30 to discuss successes so far. Everyone is welcome.

- e. Laura Pouliot is moving to Boston. She was thanked for all her service to the library and will be missed. There will be an available Trustee alternate slot if anyone is interested as well as other roles that she currently fills such as volunteer coordinator.
5. Director's Report (Joanna)
- a. Book Sale:
 - i. It was a great success and a real community event.
 - ii. Both the book and bake sale went well.
 - b. Adult book boxes
 - i. The library has received a lot of positive feedback.
 - ii. The current plan is to do it quarterly.
 - c. Museum Passes
 - i. 11 used in September.
 - ii. Mount Washington pass has been successful for the limited time it has been available.
 - iii. The Portsmouth Historical Society library pass would be \$55. The time they charge for this is from April - Oct. It is free Nov/Dec and closed Jan-March. We will discuss this again at the March meeting.
 - d. OM Practice Sept Stats:
 - i. Total Members: 27
 - ii. New members: 1
 - iii. Classes: 3 live classes, 1 video classes
 - e. Upcoming Programs
 - i. 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.
6. Youth Programming Report (Leah)
- a. Storytimes all full, 8 on waitlist
 - b. Boo Bash
 - i. Oct 24
 - ii. This is being held at LAS.
 - iii. Leah will be doing a storytime.
 - iv. Can friends do an activity? Maybe mini golf again?**
 - c. Game Days - Oct 11, Nov 1
 - d. Indoor Mini golf in the library is planned in February during vacation week.
7. 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.
8. Friends of the Library Week
- a. Pretzel Yoga for kids from OM Practice.
 - i. Zoom session for afternoon story time on Tuesday Oct 21.
 - b. National Library Week is April 19 - 26 2026.
 - c. Jill Nooney from Bedrock Gardens will be speaking on Wednesday April 22, 2026.
 - d. Maybe connect this event with a youth program, maybe earth day event.
 - e. Possibly creating bookmarks to give out to build awareness for Friends.
 - f. We should discuss this more in the January meeting.
9. New Volunteer Policy
- a. Suggestions from the insurance company were incorporated into a volunteer policy.
 - b. A volunteer form has been created.

- c. There is also a two page list of potential ways to volunteer.
- d. Laura created a Sign up genius for volunteers and people have already started signing up for watering plants, providing snacks, etc.
- e. Should we combine the volunteer and Friends Sign up geniuses? We want to require a quick training if anyone signs up for filling the Little Free Library. Judy is willing to train people.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 7:59.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary