

## Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

**Date:** Wednesday Dec 7, 2022

**Present:** Susi Burke, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki, Deborah Regan, Alisha Roberts, Jane Shanahan, Judy Wilson. Online: Melodee Carter-Guyette, Jean Storer

### **Discussed:**

1. Nov Minutes – Approved
2. Treasurer's report
  - a. Current balance: \$35,984.52 after 2 checks (see below) are deposited.
  - b. \$500 State Street and \$350 Angeline Rubin need to be deposited.
  - c. Jane will send thank you to the Rubins.
  - d. Alisha will investigate CD rates and we will discuss next meeting.
3. Director's Report (Joanna Meighan)
  - a. Santa Party – Dec 3
    - i. Leah needed to find new Santa quickly; had to pay this Santa. He came with Mrs. Claus. This Santa was very jolly, and the kids liked Mrs. Claus.
    - ii. 27 Families came, about 90 people total.
    - iii. Cocoa and cookies were served. Next year maybe provide muffins instead of cookies because it's in the morning.
  - b. Holiday Cookbook Sale
    - i. Underway now. Doing well but still a lot left.
  - c. Museum Pass Usage Update
    - i. Candlelight stroll at Strawberry Banke event sold out. All 6 days are reserved.
    - ii. State Park pass has the highest usage at 13. Bedford Gardens, MFA, Seacoast Science, Strawberry Banke all have about 7 or so up until now. At Strawberry Banke you can ice skate for 50% off with the pass.
    - iii. Portland Museum of Art has not been used at all. It is under construction but is still open.
  - d. McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center membership
    - i. Benefits
      1. For \$300 a year, public libraries can offer their patrons free general admission to the Discovery Center.
      2. Each pass offers free admission for up to four people (normally \$12/adult, \$9/child).
      3. Libraries can issue up to two passes per day.
      4. Passes are valid for general admission, as well as for Super Stellar Friday.
      5. Library passes do not include admission to planetarium shows (\$6/person) and are not accepted during special events, such as AerospaceFest.
    - ii. One thought is to do gift cards to give out instead and see if that is successful. This might be more cost effective for several museums and let us know what people are interested in. If there are any unused gift cards, we can use these as prizes.
    - iii. Joanna and Leah will investigate this idea and present something next month.

- e. Author Program at Lincoln Akerman
    - i. Simon Brooks came on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. There was great feedback about this program.
    - ii. Have received books from CLIF for the library and some to give away.
- 4. Family Reading Program
  - a. Leah shared the “Float down the Saco” family reading program and it looks fun!
- 5. STEM Discover Kits
  - a. This link has ideas: [Raymond Blog Discovery Kits](#). These are reusable kits which is what is needed for the library. Raymond is sending Leah a spreadsheet of costs for this.
  - b. [Osmo Coding Kits](#) is one Leah is looking at. It needs an iPad or Fire tablet. The state library is getting 6 of these kits so Leah may get one to try before buying.
  - c. Jeanne also sent links for [Kiwi Co](#), [Generation Genius](#), [Discovery Kits at Amazon](#), [Little Passports](#). Ones that are not multi-use may be good for prizes.
  - d. Susi suggested [Turing Tumble from Upper Story](#) as an option that is multi-use and doesn’t need a tablet.
  - e. We will talk about funding at the next meeting.
- 6. Little Free Library Sign up
  - a. Update needed for 2023 signups on Signup Genius.
  - b. Donna will ask Sheila for login information.
- 7. Strategic Plan update
  - a. Initially they will work on Framework internally and then reach out to community.
  - b. Working through values and goals that exist already to start with and then expand from there.
- 8. Upcoming programs
  - a. Local resident Scott Faiia will present a slide show and talk about Ethiopia
    - i. Feb 8<sup>TH</sup>, snow date Feb 15<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. In person program.
  - b. Culturally Curious with Jane O’Neal through the NH Humanities
    - i. March 15<sup>th</sup>, if snow that day, it will be on Zoom.
    - ii. Fierce Females: Women in Art
 

Women have long been the subject of art, often depicted as nothing more than objects of desire. How do images of women change when women become the creators? This program examines the history of women in art in brief and then explores the lives, careers and works of several major women artists from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. Artemisia Gentileschi, Mary Cassatt, and Frida Kahlo are some of the artists discussed in this program.
- 9. Suggested Future Programs
  - a. Judy received a list of free programs from NH AARP offerings on cybersecurity and internet scams (FYI - AARP Fraud Watch Network number – 1-877-908-3360). Joanna suggested maybe doing a series of these.
  - b. Donna suggested maybe the local author Lara Bricker. Her books are based in Exeter. Donna will read one of her books for the next meeting to see if this is worthwhile pursuing.

- c. Deborah suggested doing something for Earth Day, maybe some kind of a challenge. Also brought up Sam Evans Brown (Clean Energy NH, NHPR). Maybe do an Earth Day event like the one that was planned before the pandemic.
10. Hannaford Bloomin for good Program
  - a. Throughout January, the Friends will receive \$1 for each Bloomin' for Good bouquet sold in Hampton.
  - b. FB Posts scheduled already to promote this on January 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Joanna will promote through the newsletter; Susi will send Joanna the media toolkit and FB Post wording.

**Action Items:**

- **Jane:** Send thank you to the Rubins.
- **Alisha:** Investigate CD rates at Citizens to see if we should move some money into those.
- **Donna:** get Signup Genius login info for Free Little Library.
- **Donna:** Read one of Lara Bricker's books to see if an author event with her would be good.

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:40 PM

**Next meeting:** Jan 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Susi Burke, Secretary