

Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

Date: Wednesday June 7, 2023

Present: Nancy Axelson, Susi Burke, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki, Deborah Regan, Alisha Roberts, Jane Shanahan, Jean Storer, Judy Wilson.

Discussed:

1. May Minutes – Approved
2. Treasurer's report
 - a. Current balance: \$61,883.53
 - b. Check from Hannaford for \$61 for Blooms 4 Good.
 - c. Check sent to Strawberry Banke for museum membership on June 5th.
 - d. Poker Room: Alisha went to the picture event but hasn't received the photo yet. We will post on FB when we get it. Net amount for Poker Room: \$20,168.76
3. Election of Officers
We voted in the following officers for July 2023 – June 2024:
 - a. Chair: Donna Onacki
 - b. Co-Chair: Deborah Regan and Amy Dorgan
 - c. Secretary: Susi Burke
 - d. Treasurer: Alisha Roberts
4. Director's Report (Joanna Meighan)
 - a. NH Humanities Council Event Recap
 - i. May 17th: History of Quilting with Pam Weeks. 44 people attended. Pam stayed and talked to people after the event.
 - b. Mandala painting Recap
 - i. Wed, May 24, 2 sessions were held.
 - ii. 12 people participated the first hour and 10 in the second hour.
 - iii. There was good feedback about the event. People felt it was very enjoyable and zen.
 - iv. It was more individual instruction than a class.
 - c. Community Read- Braiding Sweetgrass
 - i. Applying for grant for NH Humanities Council for \$2,000.
 - ii. The library has YA and adult versions of the book and a picture book called Sweetgrass by a different author. Purchased 20 copies of each and will add more if needed.
 - iii. The YA book will go in the summer book boxes. The picture book will be given out at story time.
 - iv. Free copies of adult book will be available for the community, and some will be given to The Meadows.
 - v. Full Day Event July 19th:
 - 11:30am: [Damian Costello](#) will arrive at the library.
 - 12:00PM: Leah will read Braiding Sweetgrass Picture Book to Summer Camp on Town Common, followed by brief discussion.
 - 1:00PM: Lunch
 - 2:00PM: Braiding Sweetgrass Elder Adult Book Discussion at The Meadows

3:00PM: Afternoon Storytime at Library

4:00PM: Historical Society will open the museum with Native American Artifacts Exhibited and brief discussion.

5:00PM: Sweetgrass Braiding Demo – TBD

6:30PM: Adult Book Group Discussion

7:30PM: End of Program Day

- vi. Up to \$2,500 approved if grant is not approved or extra money is needed.
 - vii. Deborah will contact the [Mount Kearsage Indian Museum](#) to see if they have someone who could do basket weaving or something connected to book. If not, Judy can check with [New Hampshire State Council on the Art – List of Craftsman](#). There is an Abenaki woman on that list named Sherry Gould who does a program on Western Abenaki Brown Ash Baskets. Another possible is [the Hood Museum](#) at Dartmouth, League of NH Craftsman or we can try a Marsh ecological tie-in.
 - d. 8,000 Miles to The Crossroads and Beyond: Country Blues from Nepal
 - i. [Prakash Slim](#) – TJ Wheeler’s friend from Nepal. Coming in on June 19th.
 - ii. Event is on June 21.
 - iii. Meet and Greet starts at 6 pm. Concert and slide show at 6:30.
 - iv. Co-hosted with Friends of Bandstand. They are providing refreshments at the Meet and Greet.
 - v. Sponsored by Friends for \$300.
 - e. Summer 2023 reading
 - i. Additional STEM workshop funding request
 - 1. Leah reached out to Snapology in Dover. They do traveling programs. Leah has been emailing trying to solidify the date, cost and program amount.
 - 2. Programs are about 1 – 1.5 hours and are for ages 5-12.
 - 3. Approved up to \$400.
 - ii. Request for funding for Grand prize for Adult Summer Reading
 - 1. \$100 gift card for Water Street Books approved.
 - f. Teen Book Summer boxes
 - i. Last year had about 20 boxes. Cost is about \$5/\$6 per box.
 - ii. Approved up to \$300.
 - g. New Eyewitness Books came in and look great.
 - h. Discovery boxes have been going well. A lot of homeschoolers are using them now but it’s likely other families will be taking them out in the summer. New Ideas for boxes: spies/codes and magic/juggling.
5. Little Free Library
- a. Good through July 10th. [Signup link can be found here](#).
6. Repair Café Sponsorship
- a. A Repair Café is a community initiative where people gather to fix items instead of throwing away. People with repair skills volunteer to help others repair small objects.
 - b. Some ideas of items to repair: small household items, clothing, electronics, furniture, bikes.
 - c. Set up appointments ahead of time.
 - d. This would be a good Earth Day project.
7. Book Giveaway ideas
- a. [Tome Gnomes](#): A group in Tucson hides books around town with a message. For used books, we can have a message with it something like “This book has been loved; we hope you will love it to.” Maybe do it as the Friends group. Note: The Tuscon group is trying to trademark the name so we would need our own.
 - b. Could leave books at different doorsteps. Read this book and pass it forward. Kids could give leave books for other kids. We could do it for adults as well.

8. Private In-Depth [Group Tour at Bedrock Gardens](#)
 - a. Private tours cost \$250, for up to 12 guests. After the first dozen, additional guests add \$20 per person. These comprehensive tours are approximately 1.5 to 2 hours in length and lead by either Jill Nooney, Co-Founder or John Forti, our Executive Director, or an expert garden guide.
 - b. A lot of interest in doing this.
 - c. \$500 Approved for private tours.
 - d. August would be a good time for this.
9. Book Sale in September
 - a. Will need volunteers to start sorting books in August.
 - b. September 23rd is book sale.
 - c. Amy will manage the bake sale at the book sale.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Deborah:** Contact Mount Kearsage Museum.

Meeting adjourned: 7:55 PM

Next meeting: September 6, 2023, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susi Burke, Secretary