

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2016

**Attendees:** Cheryl Forster, Shelley Quinn, Christine Farris , Michele Burke, Liz Larson, Zola Brown, Allison Truslow, Gwen Sliger, Stephanie Tannariello, Lisa Walker, Andrea Maier, Gretchen Pyles, Nancy Head, Charlene Carper, Pam Macdonald, Sarah Leonardi, Nancy Spears

**Chair's Report:** (Cheryl Forster) Chair called meeting to order at 1:07 pm and thanked everyone for their attendance and the consolidated efforts of everyone for a successful September Book Sale the past weekend. In anticipation of ordering more Friends of the Library tote bags, the Chair passed around sample designs and materials along with thoughts on quantity (50) and cost figures (inside pocket would add \$1.40). The goal would be to sell the totes for \$15 or less. The Chair asked anyone interested in taking over the totes order, design, and management to please let her know.

**Secretary Report:** (Shelley Quinn) June 2016 minutes approved.

**Treasurer Report:** (Michele Burke) Opening balance: \$26,117.75 income \$12,221.27 (\$9,064 Sept Book Sale, \$2,720 membership, \$227 Online book sale (July/ Aug), \$139 book cart, \$50 donation, \$17 Amazon smile), expenses \$17,976.22 (\$14,979 gift to Library (shelving & furnishings), \$1,501 Sept Book Sale, \$600 Summer Reading Program, \$408 insurance, \$220 Children's Room art supplies, \$138 membership, \$128 (gifts, bookmarks & fees) for an ending balance of \$20,362.80.

**Correspondence:** (Jean Treadwell) A thank you note was received from Jane Cosomo for the plant dish sent by the Friends. A thank you note will be written for the \$50 donation from Nancy Spears and the lifetime membership from Amy Rowe. Longtime Friends member Elaine Bennett passed away during the last month. The Friends voted to name the new Friend's bookcase in honor of Elaine for her support over many years.

**Trustee/ Library Director Report:** (Sarah Leonardi- stepping in for Amy LaPoint) The Library is gearing up, in conjunction with 17 participating towns to participate in The Big Read. The Big Read is essentially a community book club event that celebrates the love of reading a great book. The Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck, is the book selected this year. Many of the Library's adult and children upcoming Fall programs will be themed around the book. The summer reading program, "On Your Mark, Get Set Read" was a success. It is estimated that while fewer children participated, more children completed the reading log. The Adult book cart set up over the summer in the children's room will continue. There are a few changes in other parts of the Library's program: PJ story time canceled, K-2 grade book club added. The Library is always looking for the best way to provide/improve service, so feedback on programs is always appreciated. The Strategic Plan was finalized as a joint effort and will be presented to the Board of Selectmen. A big Thank You to the Friends for the stacks/ and furnishing that the Library was able to purchase and utilize. The Library has received positive feedback regarding the new Hoopla service. Under Hoopla the library pays for the items as patrons select rather than purchasing an entire catalog in advance. Using other community libraries as a benchmark and as a way to control cost, the

Library selected a limit of 6 items allowed to be checked out per month per library patron. September is library card signup. A Peanuts' bookmark is handed out with every new card signup.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** (Pam Macdonald & Lisa Walker) As of the close of the September book sale, membership had a total of 116 active/renewals for the current fiscal year. There were two new lifetime memberships and one Book Patron member.

**Boardman Concert:** (Nancy Head) First Boardman Concert is scheduled for Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Boardman Concerts were named in honor of Anna Boardman a generous library patron. The concert will feature two repeat and one new musician on the piano, cello and violin. The library has asked the Friends to provide snacks for the concert.

**Professional Art Display:** (Christine Farris) Sharon April took on a new opportunity and resigned as the Friends Professional Art Display Chair. Christine Farris has temporarily volunteered to fill the spot until a permanent replacement can be found. The Professional Art Display Chair requires an artistic eye, numerous correspondences and can take up to 10 hours a month. There are many open spots on the calendar for Professional Artist looking to display their art at the Amherst Library over the next year. Christine would appreciate all interested parties to reach out to her for more information.

**Display Case:** (Zola Brown) The display case has many open spots over the next year. Numerous ideas to fill the openings included: contacting the Amherst Recreation for Fall/hiking information, American Presidential election memorabilia, 1930's collections to connect with the BIG READ choice of the Grapes of Wrath, investigate any options from the new Maker Space opened recently and advertise in the newsletter if anyone in the community has a collection they would enjoy sharing with the public

**Publicity/ Newsletter:** (Andrea Maier) Publicity would like to send out a thank you for all the volunteer efforts and donations for the September book sale. She would like to include membership cards in the next newsletter publication which is scheduled for the third week in October. She is requesting a deadline date for materials submitted to be October 1<sup>st</sup>. Also she would like to increase social media post responses to over 300 (currently fewer than 200) over the next year.

**Hospitality:** (Paula Schmida) Signup sheets for refreshments are being sent around for the next library events.

**On-Line Book Selling:** (Cheryl Forster) The on-line book sales have generated a ton of income (over \$3,000 in last fiscal year) but it also takes a great deal of time to organize and sell books via Amazon and to book sellers. Cheryl would like to train some volunteers to assist her with this task during the year. Anyone interested please contact Cheryl.

**Trips:** (Jane Cosmo/ Jan Madigan) The Friends are considering a trip to the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) in February to experience their new exhibit, Shoes: Pleasure and Pain. As shared on the PEM website, this exhibit invites you to explore the creativity of footwear from around the globe through more than 300 pairs of shoes, ranging from elaborate vintage designs to those by contemporary makers.

This exhibition considers the cultural significance and transformative capacity of shoes and examines the latest developments in footwear technology creating the possibility of ever higher heels and dramatic shapes. Examples from famous shoe collectors are shown alongside a dazzling range of historic shoes, many of which have not been displayed before. The exhibition is organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Book sale:** The Friends is looking for a chairperson to oversee the 4<sup>th</sup> of July book sale on the Amherst Green.

**September Book Sale:** (Gretchen Pyles) Thank you to everyone who helped make the book sale a success this year. Gretchen made a list of all the improvements she would like to incorporate next year for the sale. If anyone has any improvement ideas for the Book Sale, please forward the information to Gretchen. This year's high school volunteers were fantastic sorting the books on Friday and also had a great turnout on Thursday night to help move the books into the church. The book sale raised a net over \$7.5K which is an improvement over last year. The Friends Board all agreed to thank you gifts for Nancy and Victor Bennison. Without their yearlong work commitment to this project, the Book Sale would never happen. Gretchen would like the Board to brainstorm on ways to more easily identify the Board and other volunteers during the actual book sale.

**Trivia Night:** (Stephanie Tannariello/ Liz Larson) The event has been scheduled on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Art Show:** (Gwen Sliger). The May 2017 Student Art Show will be the 25<sup>th</sup> year the show has taken place. The Chair would like ideas on best way to celebrate such a monumental occasion.

**Miscellaneous:** The Friends of the library will share a table with the Library Trustees on election night to promote membership. The new larger Friend's ongoing book sale bookcase has been slotted to go into the Library front foyer. There is still discussion on best options to utilize the new bookcase space.

Meeting closed at 2:18

Next meetings:  
October 18, at 1pm, November 15, at 1 pm

Recording Secretary

Shelley Quinn