

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING MINUTES

September, 15 2015

Attendees: Stephanie Tannariello, Liz Larson, Cheryl Forster, Andrea Maier, Lisa Walker, Shelley Quinn, Pam Macdonald, Zola Brown, Jean Treadwell, Amy Lapointe, Gretchen Pyles, Paula Schmida, Michele Burke, Sharron April, Joelle Mancini, Sally Harrington

Cheryl Forster called meeting promptly to order at 1:00pm and thanked everyone for attendance to the first meeting of the 2015-2016 board. New and old members introduced themselves, their positions and past history to the group.

Secretary Report: June 2015 minutes approved

Treasurer Report: Opening balance: \$19,742.68, income \$2,692.67, expenses \$6,153.06 for an ending balance of \$16,283.29

Correspondence: Jean Treadwell wrote a thank you for the Krantz \$100 donation received.

Trustee/ Library Director Report: The fall newsletter, which contains list of Adult classes offered, is due to go out to all households in Amherst shortly. The strategic plan will be presented to the selectman with hopefully a new 6th goal of "Information Technology". There was discussion around finding a more productive (frequent/ financially feasible) way to communicate with the entire community such as the electronic newsletter twice a month, however the email is only sent to subscribers. Andrea Maier volunteered to help research the new Postal "Every Door Direct" which has potential to be a good and economical tool to inform every resident about the library and "Friends of the Library" updates on a more frequent basis. Liz Larson mentioned the need to meet with Library trustees to discuss a large gift donation to the library with the surplus budget dollars. One of the ideas discussed was creation of a coffee corner.

Committee Reports:

September Annual Book Sale: A large thank you to Andrea Maier for her advertising efforts through various channels over the last few months. Gretchen Pyles went through the detail scheduled timeline planned for the Thursday book transportation, Friday cut down and Saturday sale day. Also discussed was the volunteer schedules and needs, the importance for high visibility of the Friends of the Library membership table and the number of cash boxes needed. Apple turnovers and a new coffee are expected to be a sellout during the sale. Gretchen Pyles expressed her gratitude for the help she had and will receive. All volunteers are greatly appreciated. High school students will be available for babysitting, heavy lifting and helping throughout the process. She will send out email reminders before Thursday.

Membership: Lisa Walker expressed her gratitude for the help she received to send out the annual Friends of the Library membership renewal letters. There were 127 active members last year and 124 letters mailed this year. Cheryl Forster recommended the Membership committee print out an updated membership list the Friday night before the September book sale. Cheryl Forster wanted to create “more value” to a membership by distributing Friends of the Library membership cards and also a new waiver on fines (not on fees for replacement cost) the first two weeks in January for all members. The group discussed need to increase awareness of memberships to the Friends of the Library since current method appears to be mostly by word of mouth. The idea of bookmarks made available at library with Friends of the Library literature was an idea proposed.

Professional Art Display: The committee received positive feedback on the faculty show. The upcoming calendar for the September 2015- August 2016 year has some vacancies to fill. Committee requested ideas on how to improve attendance and or reinvent aspects of the Professional Art shows. It was noted that the shows that had the best attendance were the shows in which the Artist did advertising on their own behalf. Gretchen Pyles mentioned that a local artist had donated some artistic Polaroid pictures of Amherst to Friends of the Library in hopes that the pictures could be sold to raise money.

Display Case: The schedule for the September 2015- August 2016 year has some vacancies that need to be filled. The schedule is as follows: September- Mineral Collection, October- Open, November- War Memorabilia (Charles Pyle), December- Holiday decorations, January –colonial relics found around Amherst, February- open, March- open, April- Garden Club display (Marty Warren), May- Art Show, June- Summer Reading Program, July- Historical Society, August- Open

Publicity: Andrea Maier discussed all the avenues used to advertise the book sales such as online venues, emails and face book posts. Other suggestions to post on magazine calendars such as Yankee, NH Magazine were discussed. Andrea offered to help improve publicity around the Friends of the Library Professional Art Display and the Display Case Exhibits.

Newsletter: Joelle Mancini discussed the content of the next newsletter to include the scheduled concert series and Friends of the Library membership opportunities but expressed need for more information. Joelle Mancini will reach out to other committee chairs for committee news to put into the newsletter.

On-Line Book Selling: Cheryl Forster happily announced proceeds of \$438 in July and August through such venues as Amazon and book resellers.

Hospitality: Paula Schmida will provide snacks at the sponsored Music Series in hopes to create better exposure and new membership opportunities.

Trips: There are no trips currently planned. Some suggestions for trips included Colby Sawyer College Museum, Capital Center for the Arts in Concord and the Palace Theatre in Manchester. There was hope that maybe the Amherst Recreation minibus could be borrowed to reduce the cost of future trips.

Trivia Night: Date is set for Saturday, March 26th at Hampshire Hills. Committee chairs are busy collecting trivia and soliciting new sponsors.

Student Art Show: No update just a note that dates for the event have expanded to allow more time for setup and prepare for the event. Dates set for event are May 9- May 15.

July 4th Book Sale: Proceeds from book sale in July 2015 were \$160. Announced a success but a decision was made to reserve the use of baskets for book sales to only holiday gift times.

Meeting closed at 2:20 with a brief reminder of the 2015-2016 Friends of the Library meetings and other events scheduled.

- October 20, 2015 7:00pm
- November 17, 2015 1:00pm
- December 2015- No meeting (Holiday Book sale and decorate library)
- January 19, 2016 7:00pm
- February 16, 2016 1:00pm
- March 15, 2016 7:00pm
 - March 26, 2016 is Trivia Night
- April 19, 2016 1:00pm
- May 17, 2016 7:00pm (committee chairs for 2016- 2017 nominations)-
 - Student Art Show May 9-15
- June 21, 2016 1:00pm
- July 4, 2016 Book Sale on the Green

Recording Secretary

Shelley Quinn