



FRIENDS OF THE
WEARE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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MINUTES FOR MARCH 28, 2023

Approval of 2-28-23 draft minutes - M/S/P (with special thanks to Lea for taking them last month)

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Nancy Zienkiewicz-President, Helen Dutton-Treasurer, Debbie Farr-Secretary, Lea Anderson-Smith-Member at Large, Brenda Cannon, Greg Smith.
Library Staff: Clay Kriese-Library Director

Reports:

- **President -**
 - a. Nancy shared the thank-you card from the staff for the appreciation breakfast.
 - b. Nancy is spending a lot of time learning about the library & her role. She found a lot of information at <https://www.nh.gov/nhsl/index.html>. She handed out several papers on info she found regarding non-profit filings as well as the "Working Together: Director-Trustees-Friends" from NHLTA 2018 that explains the different roles of director, trustees, and friends. For additional information, see <https://www.nhlta.org/friends501c3.asp>.
 - c. Nancy mentioned the Trustees welcome Friends at their meetings and vice versa. Helen asked that Debbie add the Trustee meetings to the calendar (1st Thursday of the month @ 7 p.m. at the library).
 - d. Nancy also thanked everyone from the staff for the breakfast. Next year we should consider inviting Trustees to join us in celebrating the staff.
 - e. Nancy recommends watching NH Chronicle's story on libraries - "NH Chronicle: Libraries aren't just about books" found at <https://www.wmur.com/article/nh-chronicle-libraries-arent-just-about-books-you-can-also-borrow-other-things/43179995>
 - f. Nancy found info on the NH Astronomical Society Library Telescope program at <http://www.nhastro.com/ltp.php>. The program has existed since 2008 & now includes 147 libraries in Maine & NH. The basics:
 - The current cost is \$400 for the telescope which includes materials & shipping.
 - The NHAS retrofits the telescope to sufficiently handle the rigors of library lending.

- A NHAS member delivers the scope to the library & provides instruction.
 - NHAS does not charge to work with the library on how to use it or for any telescope repairs.
 - Goffstown was a pilot program & they've have had great feedback from the public.
 - New Boston has had it for a few years & have also had good response.
 - NHAS provides free Skywatches to help promote the scope & educate the library patrons.
 - Greg feels the telescope isn't high powered so he's not sure it's worth it.
 - Clay mentioned the library will be offering a Skywatch program sometime in June. Helen has requested that Clay put together a survey to have folks fill out at the June event. That will help us know whether to move forward. Nancy also asked Clay to request they bring one of the telescopes that we would possibly buy.
 - This telescope program has moved to Clay's #1 on the library's wish list.
 - Nancy has invited Steve Rand from NHAS to our May meeting & has requested he bring a sample telescope kit & provide additional information about the program.
- **Treasurer** - the Above & Beyond program is doing well. We've received \$1320 & had only budgeted \$1000. YTD income - \$3155. We've had expenditures of \$150 so far, with a commitment of \$510 for summer programs. We have a little over \$6000 in the bank, but that includes a check received for \$1570.72. Helen thinks it's possible that was supposed to go to the Library Trustees so she is getting clarification. Debbie will create another membership solicitation email to go out & will have Helen & Nancy approve.
 - **Library Director** - Clay's report is for February:
 - a. circulation was a bit lower than January but even with that, 13% more this Feb. than last year Feb. 30% more people came into the building. He feels we're still seeing a rebound from COVID. But it could also be related to the various programs (25 programs/events, 267 people). For example, Pokemonday had 26 kids last week.
 - b. Chimney repair is waiting for improved weather.
 - c. Shelving for children has been delayed. Upstairs shelving needs to be replaced too but he's holding to see how the children's units look. There is definitely concern, though, that the shelving is not safe. Some discussion about whether Trustees need to purchase it but Brenda mentioned Trustees do not have the money. The town tends to vote down funds to the library, unfortunately.

- d. Clay handed out the updated Museum/Park passes Usage Report. Stats show it may not be worth it to fund the Squam Lake pass. He also handed out the updated summer program budget.
- e. Starting next week, the library will be giving away seeds when someone checks out a book.
- f. July 18 is the next town meeting regarding expansion of the library.

Announcements - none. No response from rotary yet - Debbie will reach out to them.

Old Business:

1. **Membership & Above & Beyond updates** - doing well; Debbie will send out an updated email to those who still haven't renewed
2. **Events Committee** - no updates/additional info. There was discussion on the town-wide yard sale. The group felt selling books again wouldn't be worth it so Greg has offered to find a different home for them (Henniker Book Farm). Greg will report back what he finds at the May meeting. Debbie moved that we do not do the town wide yard sale. **M/S/P.**
3. **Silent Auction** - Helen, Dianne, Suzanne, & Greg are working on it. Helen will set up a committee meeting. The date of the silent auction is July 8. Debbie will make sure it's on the calendar.
4. **Bulletin board** - Helen has the bulletin board (3' x 4'). Helen & Greg will meet to put it up, then it will be ready for next steps.
5. **Vision/mission/purpose** - we are waiting to find the Articles of Incorporation. Helen has finally found the 'path' to get to them & will have them soon.
6. **Summer program funding requests** - Clay handed out the updated budget. \$504 for the children's programs is awaiting approval from us. There will also be approx. \$500 needed for the adult programs for an overall total of approx. \$1500 for summer program funding. We budgeted \$2200. \$504 approved - **M/S/P.** Adult requests will be handled at the May meeting.
7. **Old Home Day registration** - Heleen was able to get the application fee waived. Nancy will complete the form. We'll do a 50/50 raffle. We'll need tickets & have to decide how much to sell them for. We'll work on this in our May meeting. **M/S/P** to do the raffle at Old Home Day.
8. **Articles of Incorporation** - (see above)
9. **Casino donations to non-profits** - Greg doesn't have full info yet but will be contacting casinos to find out how it works (some info online shows some of them do donations.)

New Business:

1. National Librarian Day - April 16 - we'll do flowers, bagels/cream cheese for the full staff but make note of the special day for librarians. April 13th will be the date since most of

the staff will be there. Debbie will send an email to active members to let them know they can bring either/or.

2. Other - prioritization of Clay's [wish list](#). There was some discussion about the wish list having some items that are more maintenance related or structural. At the May meeting we'll work with Clay's wish list, eliminating items we feel maybe don't fit within the Friends' goals as well as finding which line item in the budget the items we DO keep would fit into. Our donations to the summer programs and park/museum passes have traditionally been what we donate to so Clay stresses there is no pressure to fund other items on the wish list. We talked briefly about coming up with something that we literally hand out with each pass given to patrons to remind people that the Friends are funding the program. The sign-out list has the Friends' name on it but we may want to create something that the family literally receives in attempt to get more members.
3. There was some brief discussion about the library expansion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted - Debbie Farr, Secretary

No April meeting - Next meeting: May 23 - 6:30 p.m. - Sawyer Room - in person

ACTION STEPS:

Action	Who	By When
Natl. Librarian Day - drop off breakfast items/flowers at the library	All Friends	April 13 - a.m.
Discuss specific fundraiser events for the Fall	Members	May meeting
Information about casino donations to non-profits	Greg	May meeting
Decision as to which Museum/Park Passes to renew	Members	May meeting
Discussion re summer adult programs	Members	May meeting
Installation of bulletin board	Greg, Helen	ASAP
Membership drive follow-up	Debbie	ASAP
Old Home Day Raffle details	Members	May meeting

May agenda: Guest speaker - Steve Rand, NH Astronomical Society