



FRIENDS OF THE
WEARE PUBLIC LIBRARY
P.O. Box 227
WEARE, NH 03281
friendsofwearepl@gmail.com



MINUTES FOR MAY 23, 2023

Approval of 3-28-23 draft minutes - M/S/P

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, Dianne Hathaway, Lindsey Hilliard, Heleen Kurk, Greg Smith.
Library Staff: Clay Kriese-Library Director, Karen Metcalf-Children's Librarian
Guest: Steve Rand, NH Astronomical Society - Library Telescope Program

Guest Speaker: Steve Rand, NH Astronomical Society - Library Telescope Program - they are a nonprofit educational outreach group created to foster appreciation of astronomy. They do Skywatches with large telescopes, when invited. History: in 2008, they started a program (based on a Robert Frost poem) to put Orion telescopes in local libraries to be borrowed by town residents. Tamworth was the first town to get one. Approx. 2 ½ weeks ago, they placed the 161st telescope in NH! The program is even international! The telescope they offer to libraries comes with a zoom eyepiece & is very durable - sits on a table (not a tripod). If we decide to purchase one, he suggests we communicate with other libraries to find out best strategy for loaning it out. Most importantly, staff need to know how to operate it to educate borrowers. Cost for the telescope and initial training by their staff would be \$400.

They've also started a binocular program which includes a pair of binoculars & accompanying materials (\$150).

Go to <http://nhastro.com/> - we can find out more about the program & costs at their website. There are also videos that can be watched to learn how to handle the telescope & what you can see using it.

They do Skywatches free of charge. Our library will be doing one this summer - June 29 is our planned Skywatch with a rain date of July 20.

If we choose to do the program, we will purchase it through their website, and then Pete Smith will get the telescope, do modifications, and bring it and meet with our library staff for training ("do's & don'ts"). It also comes with some materials.

The library is ultimately responsible for any damage. However, they can help in some situations & can also help us find parts. He said repairs aren't all that common and some of the replaced parts aren't all that expensive. Some libraries use forms that state the borrower is responsible for any damage. He did say the telescope should only go to those 18 and older. Do **not** have patrons clean the mirror or lens - have library staff do that. Typically patrons will check the telescope out for a week. There are times when the telescope should not be loaned out, e.g. solar events.

Google 'what's out tonight' - that will take you to a website that will give you a map that gives location of various things to look at.

Reports:

1. President -

- a. Nancy has been learning about managing a Facebook page for Friends. Nancy is now the administrator as well as Dianne, as a backup. Please follow the Friends now & share! We will now begin to market opportunities thru Facebook but will continue our 'traditional' ways of informing people of events (WITW, our bulletin board, etc.)

2. Treasurer -

- a. Not a lot of April activity - received \$110 in dues/A&B.
- b. The town did incorrectly send us the check so that amount did have to be returned/deleted
- c. Total, we have \$220 in membership dues, \$1560 from Above & Beyond, and \$65 restricted gift for adult programming.
- d. Heleen asked Helen if she would compare membership to pre-COVID.
- e. \$105 came from Amazon Smile as their last donation before the program ended.
- f. \$1014 has been committed for children's summer programs

3. Library Director -

- a. Clay had no report.
- b. Brenda questioned whether Clay needs to do a report each meeting. She feels this may be more typical in a trustee's meeting
- c. The group decided to utilize the idea of this being optional and falling under new business, allowing for Clay, Karen or any other library staff person. Library staff will need to let Friends know if they have a reason to speak at the meeting.

Announcements

1. Rotary presentation - we now have a date to meet with them on June 20, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. Debbie & Suzanne (& possibly Nancy) will be presenting but will connect with Nancy beforehand. Clay will give Debbie & Suzanne library stats. As a side note, the Rotary (which encompasses Goffstown & Weare) will also be doing flowers for the town of Weare.

Old Business:

1. Membership and Above & Beyond updates

- a. Thanks to Clay for sending out an email to patrons to let them know about the Friends.
- b. In general everyone was in agreement that the A&B program is working well, better than a graduated membership program.

2. Events

- a. Silent Auction for Weare Patriotic Celebration - July 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A spreadsheet has been created to keep track of donations & related info. We've got around \$1800 worth of items either already donated or promised (more than last year!). Physical location will be near the gazebo. Four helpers are needed for set-up from 9-10 a.m., 2 helpers needed from 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, and breakdown from 4-5:30 p.m. Debbie will send out the email now to current members as well as old members & refer them to Suzanne to volunteer. At the table, we will also hand out membership and A&B forms (which need to be printed). *NOTE: later in the meeting, purchasing the telescope was approved & the group agreed that having it present at the silent*

auction with some sort of signage would be helpful to show people what their donations are used for.

- i. TD Bank wants to be there all day to show support to us. They would have the info for people to sign up that would bring donations to us. Nancy will connect with Andy at TD to ensure it doesn't get too overbearing or that it looks like the Friends are sponsoring TD bank. **M/S/P** that Nancy has our proxy to make decisions as to whether it will be appropriate.
 - ii. *NOTE: later in the meeting, we rediscussed TD's involvement and decided we give our proxy to Nancy to **redirect** Andy (TD) to the June 22nd summer programs kick-off **instead of the silent auction.***
 - b. Old Home Day Raffle - August 12 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., sponsored by the Weare Historical Society. Application fee was waived for us (thanks Heleen!). We will do a 50/50 raffle that works within legal parameters because it's less than 12 hours (no permission required). We also don't have to have preprinted tickets. We will use the standard double tickets. At 3 p.m., the winner will be notified. We will also have a donation box, membership forms, etc. We will get volunteers at our July meeting.
 - c. Fall fundraisers - deferred to July meeting since we'll have results from the auction.
3. **Bulletin board** - it looks great! Thanks Angela! We'll place info about the silent auction & other programs.
 4. **Vision/mission/purpose**
 - a. Thanks to Helen for finding our Article of Incorporation - it meshes with our vision/mission.
 - b. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation is now held in the Friends' binder at the library.
 5. **Summer program**
 - a. Adult programming funding requests - Clay mentioned the requests are mostly take-home crafts as well as painting crafts. \$363.22 is the total request for adult summer programming. **M/S/P** to provide \$363.22 for these programs.
 - b. dates, assistance - kickoff is Thurs., June 22 - water games 6:30 p.m. We need to be there providing assistance as well as a table with info about the Friends. Thursday July 13 is a special program with Bryson Lang (juggler) - we need to have Friends there. June 29 is the Skywatch.
 - c. Nancy will forward important dates/times that Friends can be helpful to the library for special events.
 6. **Review of passes to be funded** - Clay handed out a sheet showing passes usage and costs. Because some were expiring soon, Clay went ahead & purchased See Science Center, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, & NH State Parks as a purchase from the library. Those present voted to reimburse the library for the purchases for a total of \$655. **M/S/P**
 7. **Casino donations to non-profits** - we will move this discussion to our July meeting.
 8. **Library wish list** - after going through a process of verification of Friends-appropriate items, some items have been removed because they are operating budget/town expenses. The #1 wish list item was still the telescope. After discussion, the majority of those present voted to purchase the telescope. **M/S/P**

New Business:

1. Library Expansion

- a. Meeting - June 13, 7 p.m. at the Weare Middle School - Friends need to be visible. Trustees have asked us to do refreshments so we need to have some volunteers. There was discussion as to who the driver is behind this expansion. Consensus was that the Trustees and some of the Foundation are behind it. We want to pull in as many voters as possible to boost attendance at these expansion meetings. Various options were discussed. Debbie will create a google doc & send all members the link to sign up to bring some sort of light finger foods, drinks, napkins, etc.
2. Debbie briefly introduced the idea of partnering w/library to do some sort of 'gala' next year (2024) for library week instead of doing separate events for library staff and librarians as we did this year. Discussion tabled for future meeting(s).
3. Ongoing book sale - tabled for July

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Farr, Secretary

No June meeting

Next meeting: July 25 - 6:30 p.m. - Sawyer Room - in person

Action	Who	By When
Request silent auction volunteers & have them connect w/Suzanne	Debbie	ASAP
Create list of library events that Friends can attend to support	Nancy	ASAP (*SEE BELOW FOR LIST)
Solicit volunteers to bring refreshments for Library Expansion mtg	Debbie	ASAP (google doc created)
Discuss 50/50 raffle	All	At July meeting
Fall fundraisers, including casino donations	All	At July meeting
Ongoing book sale	All	At July meeting
2024 Library Gala	All	At Sept. mtg.
Museum Passes - Currier Museum of Art, McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, New England Aquarium	All	At July Meeting

***After-meeting discussion included soliciting parents who've used any of the passes (or programs) to create a Facebook post, short video, or similar to help advertise and boost usage of library's various programs.**

These are the additional summer programs and dates that Friends members are encouraged to attend/support:

Mondays - Pokemonday 2pm

Movie Matinee 4pm, help to make popcorn beforehand

Tuesdays - Baby & Toddler Playgroup 10:30

Video Gaming 2pm

Wednesdays - Variety of School-age activities 2:30pm

Coding with NED robotic arm 4pm

Approved