

FRIENDS OF THE WEARE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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July 23, 2024 Minutes

Attendance - Nancy Zienkiewicz President, Helen Dutton Treasurer, Suzanne Belanger Vice President, Lindsey Hilliard Secretary, Brenda Cannon, Dianne Hathaway, Angela Kriese

Library Staff: Clay Kriese and Karen Metcalf

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

Meeting Minutes: Approved 5-21-2024 minutes **M/S/P**.

REPORTS

President

Nancy reported updates to Facebook for the silent auction have been the priority. Additional updates are under Old Business.

Treasurer

Helen reported we earned \$4,010 at the Silent Auction. One new member joined in June for a total of 17 members and \$170 in dues to date. June YTD expenses are \$1,768 including \$60 in July. The treasury balance is \$9,691.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen reported that 184 people signed up for the summer reading program including 45 teens/tweens, and younger moms. Programs are full with waiting lists. She reported that attendees are "happy with their prizes" which included gift cards, books and toys and other "great donations" library staff have been soliciting. There were around 150 attendees at the Wildlife Encounter during which Karen announced the program was sponsored by the Friends.

OLD BUSINESS

Silent Auction

Dianne reported that we were lucky to earn as much revenue as we did given the rainy weather and poor attendance. 24 businesses/clubs donated items along with 10 individuals, 5 of whom are Friends, donated items. There were no complaints about the higher minimum bids this year, which is likely the reason we earned as much as we did. There were 17 different high bidders, 4 of those were Friends. There were 4 items with no bids, these are now posted on our Facebook page as a trial online silent auction. So far there has only been a bid on one of them.

Logo

Lindsey contacted the Merrimack Library, they outsourced the design contest of their logo, which we do not want to do given the cost. Nancy contacted a graphic designer about the redesign of the logo, she felt we would be able to run a contest in the community, including children. She provided several suggestions and said she would be able to do the final cleanup of the selected design. We tabled the logo issue until spring.

Speaker

Nancy shared that the soonest we could arrange for a sponsored speaker would be the November-April time period. Given holidays and winter weather then, we are tabling this item until Spring.

Bulletin Board

Nancy asked if we need to implement a schedule for bulletin board maintenance given that it is our alternative to Facebook. Nancy said she will continue to do it until November.

Membership

It was noted that if we add additional programs and events to organize, it's still the same small contingent of members who work on them, and the Bake Sale and Silent Auction take a lot of time. We need to increase membership. Dianne suggested we suspend dues to encourage people to join, and recruit using Weare in the World during its upcoming issues.

In the meantime, Lindsey will draft a half sheet draft general information flyer to be posted at the library throughout the community at TD Bank, the post office, Country3 Corners, Weare Grocers, the Town office, and other such places.

Brochure

Lindsey updated the brochure and changed the font. There are copies in the library lobby. She will check how many are left and reprint if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Nancy announced that it is time to form a Nominating Committee to put together a slate of candidates running for positions in the election in November at the annual meeting. There were no volunteers from those attending the meeting so Lindsey will ask members to volunteer for this committee by the end of July. Interested members should contact Nancy directly.

Annual Meeting

The date was changed to November 19th because the usual date is the same week as Thanksgiving this year. The Board will start working on the 2025 budget in October and will present it at this meeting. It was suggested we develop financial goals for the budget; this will be done at the September meeting.

Library Updates

Clay was asked about items available for checkout, other than books, such as those used at other libraries like cooking items and sewing machines. The library has puzzles, games and the telescope. Clay was asked how often the telescope was checked out and he reported one time with one or two upcoming reservations. It was suggested he consider holding a program like Skywatch in order to use and advertise the telescope, or to get the Skywatch people to come back to assist.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Hilliard
Secretary

***No August meeting.
Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 24 - 6:30 p.m.***