



FRIENDS OF THE
WEARE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 6, 2022

Attendance: Dena Ventiere, Aroostine Brown, Karen Metcalf, Clay Kriese, Suzanne Belanger, Debbie Farr, Helen Dutton, Nancy Zienkiewicz, Greg Smith, Lea Anderson-Smith, Sharon Walker, Celeste Smith, Angie Kriese, Heleen Kurk.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm. Helen presented Dena with a thank-you gift basket from the Friends for all her efforts on behalf of the organization, resulting in thunderous applause 😊. Since Dena had to leave, Suzanne (VP) took over meeting. Helen presented Heleen, Karen, & Aroostine with a thank-you card.

Approval of 10-25-22's draft minutes - Nancy recommended we reflect the exact date of the minutes we are approving. Debbie will reflect that in last month's minutes & all minutes going forward. **M/S/P**

Vote for officers: Suzanne requested any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a vote was taken on the current slate = Nancy Zienkiewicz-Pres., Suzanne Belanger-VP., Helen Dutton-Treas., Debbie Farr-sec., Lea Anderson-Smith-at large). **M/S/P**.

Reports:

1. **President** - Nancy thanked Dena for all her hard work.
2. **Treasurer** - Helen distributed the current & proposed annual budget (YTD income & expense was combined with projected). We received the \$650 from Goffstown. Smile - \$488 YTD. Liability insurance (\$406.85) was the only payment for this month. YTD income \$4600, expenses \$5100. Overspent by approx. \$500. We have \$3700 in bank; 2 expenditures committed - \$650 for passes & \$182 for children's giveaway books.
 - a. November financial report was approved. **M/S/P**.
 - b. Budget - Helen projected similar income & expenses (2022) for 2023 leading to an imbalanced budget. Discussion resulted in several suggestions for edits. Helen will edit & present at the January meeting.
 - c. Budget accepted, with changes. **M/S/P**.
3. **Library Director** - Clay thanked everyone for their support; looking forward to next year.
 - a. Circulation & attendance has been high.
 - b. Joint event with historical society was a success. Kids enjoyed the books, especially since they were free! Huge turnout - probably over 200 people!

- c. Clay sent out an email about the next meeting with architect (Tues., Dec. 20th at 6 p.m.) Library Foundation funded the feasibility study & will hopefully provide more funds, along with private donations. Hoping to double the size of the building!
 - d. On Thursday morning, Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m., Terry Merch of TSS will present on electro-magnetic pulse. All are invited.
 - e. Wish list is on the website. Still waiting for some estimates. Go to bit.ly/wearewishlist to see the list.
4. Celeste reported on the FIRST competition. Kids placed 5th and advanced to State. This was the first time they'd made it to State! Won a trophy - will be displayed at the library. The 5 participants (4-7th graders) are currently taking a break but will regroup in the spring with an invitational in May. Will try to recruit over the summer for more participants. We agreed we'd like them to do a summer presentation.
 5. **Events Committee** - the group reviewed Angela's Event Ideas list presented at the last meeting. Some of the activities we focused on was having a Wine Tasting (beer, wine, spirits), Harry Potter scavenger hunt, Arts in the Community, & asking restaurants to have one special night that donations go to the library. All events, however, require a number of volunteers. At minimum, we need to piggyback on events the library is already holding to help people become aware of the Friends. We need some sort of brochure to help each of us know how to present the info to others so we are consistent & informative. It needs to include an 'ask'. We can ask for assistance but also for money. We can also ask current members to help with specific activities. Lea suggested we form a subcommittee - Angela, Lea, Suzanne will be on the committee & report out at our next meeting. They will narrow the list down & come up with what is needed (people, supplies, etc.).
 6. **Little Library** - doing fine - all set for next couple of months.

Old Business:

1. **Friends bulletin board space** - Heleen, Suzanne will work on this. The group agreed we need to keep it active. The allotted space may be too small, however. We can reassess but should include dates of meetings as well as an overall purpose/vision.
2. **Goffstown Rotary Club grant** - Received & the aquarium pass will be purchased this month. It will, however, expire in September 2023. The Rotary has asked for representatives of the organization to attend one of their meetings. Nancy &/or Debbie will attend an upcoming Rotary meeting, most likely January or February. Clay has offered to go as well, if needed.
3. **Friends page on library website** - some new pics are up & we'll put one up of Dena & new officers.
4. **Trunk or treat** - Suzanne said it was fun! Karen, Angie, & Suzanne participated on behalf of the library & Friends. It was very crowded; we were parked in a different spot due to plugging in stuff but they still got lots of people coming by. Tough to discuss Friends

with people who stopped by, especially since some people didn't even know about the library being in town! Families went through very quickly, collecting candy. Next year consider setting up with the vendor fair instead - we could have handouts &/or activities so we could explain more about the Friends. Regardless, we should do it again just because it was good exposure.

5. **Special Friends** - In the interest of time, this was not discussed. However, Debbie will create a proposal for next meeting to include the following & will send to the board for input: Is this for 1 year or multiple years? Does this include membership or not? What are the 'rewards' or gifts? When do we want to launch this?

New Business:

1. 2023 Calendar - in general, the calendar looks good although minimal time for discussion. It was agreed, however, that our meetings will run 6:30-7:30 p.m. but continue on the 4th Tuesday of every other month.
 - a. **Our first meeting for 2023 will be Jan. 24th 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. - we will do both zoom & in person. We will meet in the Sawyer Room. If subcommittees want to, they can meet at 6 p.m.**
 - b. Debbie will send the calendar to those in attendance at the meeting for their feedback & we will rediscuss the calendar at the January meeting.
2. Other - Karen - we were chosen to partner with the Children's Museum to promote play-based learning. We have a box of items (worth \$500) for us to use however we'd like. We'll have to complete a survey at the end of the year. Karen is doing a play date the week of vacation & will use some of the items then, as well as at story times. There is a possibility we'll also start a loaner program with some of the items. Karen is suggesting we consider getting a membership with the Children's Museum. Clay will add it to the wish list.

7:46 p.m. adjourned. Officers had their picture taken for the website.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Farr, Friends Secretary

***NEXT MEETING - JAN. 24, 6:30 P.M. - SAWYER ROOM**