

Friends of the Griffin Free Library - February 5, 2024

Present: Cathy Sartorelli, Brenda Beer, Dan Szczesny, Joanne Linxweiler, Terry Coll, Pat Davenport, Marie Sullivan, Brenda Brunelli, Liz Michaud, Jess Traynor, Pat Clement, Sharon O'Leary Graves, Pat Allard, Marion Miller, Fay Hanscomb, Frank Hanscomb, Cindy Berling, and Karen Murray

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Secretary's Report

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report. 1st Joanne and 2nd Terry

Karen asked if there has ever been a Welcome Packet for new members and/or an application. The answer was no. Some ideas were to provide new members with our Friends' brochure, a membership list, and a discount to purchase a book at the Book Sale. Fay has a brochure from the Friends of the Hooksett Library which includes a membership form, but they charge a fee for members. Fay will share this brochure with Karen and they will work together to create something for our new members.

Treasurer's Report

Museum Passes \$1700:

New England Aquarium \$700

SEE Science Center \$250

Zoo New England \$250

Creativebug \$500 will be effective 3/1/24

Current balance is \$5142.57

Deposits 842.50:

Square from Santa Breakfast \$597.57

Santa that was sold \$237.50

Cash for returned items from Santa Breakfast \$7.00

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. 1st Fay and 2nd Terry

Marie shared that the profit from the Santa Breakfast was \$2477.57

Director's Report

1. Warrant Article 20 made it through without any changes. There were several community members who spoke against it or questioned why it was not coming out of the reserve fund. Liz did a fantastic job explaining the article, answering questions and helping push it through. Now we have work to get the word out to voters as it's critical that this article passes by a significant percentage. Some ideas are signs for front yards, t-shirts for kids, fliers. This will be discussed at the Trustee Meeting on Monday, 2/12 at 5:30PM at the library. Friends are encouraged to attend.
2. Patron count is the actual number of people physically using the library. The number may include people from out of town who attend events. This number jumped nearly 40% in 2023. This January had a 25% increase from last year. Circulation and many other numbers are up as well, but patron count is critical and that is the best example of how the needs of the community are beginning to outpace the staffing and resources of the library.
3. Museum passes equaled the pace of 2023 which is good. The library will begin a social media program to push a pass each week in an attempt to increase numbers. For January the top passes were SEE Science Center - 5, Discovery Center - 3, Boston Aquarium - 2, Museum of Science, Aviation and Millyard Museum - 1 each.

The following passes are up for renewal with last year's cost and usage noted: Fells \$100 - 5 Bedrock Garden \$125 - 21

Squam Lake Science Center \$300 -18

Dan recommended not renewing The Fells. There was discussion about renewing Squam Lake Science Center.

A motion was made to renew the Bedrock Garden and Squam Lake Science Center passes, but not to renew The Fells pass.

1st Fay and 2nd Brenda

A motion was made to purchase a 6 month pass to the Children's Museum of NH. The cost will be \$150 for 6 months. The pass will provide 50% off admission for up to 4 people.

1st Brenda Beer and 2nd Karen

On 1/19/24 Karen sent out a chart with current museum passes and information regarding each pass. She asked for clarification regarding the passes for the USS Constitution Museum and Canterbury Shaker Village which are both posted on the library website. Dan explained there is no charge to visit the Constitution Museum so the Friends do not fund this pass. The pass to Canterbury Shaker Village will expire in April and the museum is currently closed until mid-May.

4. Creative Bug the contract was signed and it should be up and running by 3/1/24.

Old Business

Santa Breakfast will be held on Sunday, 12/8/24.

New Business

Tote Bag Fundraiser - Cathy shared information regarding a Tote Bag Fundraiser and shared 3 color samples for the bags. It is most economical to order 100 bags which will cost \$8.27 each. Other charges \$35 for screen printing and \$90 art fee.

A motion was made to purchase 100 bags in royal blue with royal blue handles and white lettering. There will be a book on the bag that matches the book on the sign in front of the library. The words will be:
Griffin Free Public Library, Established 1892, Auburn NH

There was discussion about the price we should charge for selling the bags. It was decided to charge \$20/bag.

Plant Sale will be held May 18th. Jess and Fay agreed to be co-chairs for this event. The biggest profit came from selling donated plans. This year we will ask people to volunteer to dig up plants. Adopt-A-Pot was also profitable. We will need to promote activities such as a Children's Planting Table and Plant Your Own Herbs if we do these activities again. We should also continue to sell donated gardening books which Jess has already put aside. Other ideas are to sell gardening gloves and have someone sell honey.

The Plant Sale Committee will meet on Monday, 2/19/24 at 10AM at the library. Jess, Fay, Sharon, Marie and Cindy have volunteered to be on this committee, but all are welcome to attend.

Library Giving Day will be 4/3/24. Karen will write about this in the March Crier article. Cindy will send Karen a QR code for the article which will link donors to the Friends' account.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10PM 1st Terry 2nd Jess

Next Friends' Meeting: **Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00pm** at the library.

Karen Murray
Secretary Friends of the Griffin Library