

Friends of the Griffin Free Library - August 5, 2024

Present: Pat Davenport, Cathay Sartorelli, Marie Sullivan, Sharon O'Leary Graves, Judy Bellrose, Nancy Mayland,, Pat Clement, Marion Miller, Jess Traynor, Cindy Berling, Brenda Brunelli, Terry Coll, Joanne Linxweiler, Fay Hanscomb, Elaine Willett, Pat Allard, Dan Szczesny, and Karen Murray

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

Secretary's Report

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. Karen noted 1 correction - the total number of tree ornaments sold should be 105.

A motion was made to accept the secretary's report.

1st Joanne and 2nd Fay-motion passed

Treasurer's Report

6/3 Balance		\$5998.70
6/7 Deposit	+776.00	6774.70
6/22 Payment Discovery Center	-400.00	6374.70
6/28 Interest	+ .06	6374.76
7/8 Postmaster USPS stamps	- 68.00	6306,76
7/31 Interest	+ .06	6306.82
8/2 Deposit (tote bags)	+ 80.00	6386.82
8/5 Massabesic Garden Club	-317.00	6069.82
8/5 Jess Traynor (cups and bags)	- 36.99	6032.83

Marie also received \$659 at the meeting from fundraising items of totes, ornaments and quilt raffle.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report.

1st Terry and 2nd Joanne - motion passed.

For budget purposes we should know how much is spent each year for museum passes. The total amount spent to fund the current museum passes and Creativebug is \$3800.00. Dan suggested that we should think about the value of each pass by looking at how much a pass is used.

Patrons receive a 20% discount on tickets to the NH Philharmonic Orchestra. Since this isn't being used Karen will mention this in the next Crier article.

Director's Report

1. **Museum Passes.** Pass usage has again shown a sharp increase, going from 20 in July 2023 to 32 in July 2024. Our yearly total is 183 compared to 104 in July of 2023. This is a 75% increase! Top 3 popular passes are Museum of Science (31) SEE Science Center (25), NE Aquarium (35). For newer passes, Children's Museum (10), Squam Lakes (24) are seeing good usage. The Farm Museum has yet to take off, with only 1 withdrawal so far.

A motion was made to renew the pass to the Children's Museum of NH for \$300. 1st Terry and 2nd Joanne - motion passed.

2. **Creative Bug.** There was a distinct decline in usage in July. There is no comparison for previous years, but may be due to summer activities. Will monitor and see if it increases. In the meantime, please sign up all your family and friends who have a library card.
3. **Patron Usage.** Library patron usage continues to increase drastically. This year 7,592 users in the library or at library events. Last year at this time, 5,809. Through July, patron usage has increased nearly 31% over 2023.
4. **Circulation Usage:** Circulation continues to perform at high levels. As of the end of July 2024, we are 4 percent above circulation across the board, with kids and young adults being the driving factors. Last month was the highest overall circulation month in the library's history with 3,581 print or digital items going out!
5. **Friends' Contribution Toward Kids Room.** The library asked the Friends for \$1,000 to help us expand space in the children's room. Board Book and Graphic Novels are rapidly expanding, but need to be separated. Patrons have checked out 764 graphic novels this year which is 3.5 a day! The Board Books and Graphic Novels should be separated due to the nature of the age groups. Childrens and YA fiction make up about 7% of circulation.

The purchase will be for library-grade shelving endcaps to fasten against the two low shelving units in the kid's room. The cost will be \$4-500/unit for the units and fasteners. No brand has not been decided yet . This would be a one-time purchase and the friends would be given a thank you plate for your contribution.

A motion was made to renew the pass to the Children's Museum of NH for \$300. 1st Marie and 2nd Jess - motion passed.

6. **Pavilion Construction Collaboration:** The library has struggled with the cost (approx. \$3,000) of constructing a pavilion in the story trail behind the library. They currently own a pavilion kit. A solution may be using funds that have been donated in memory of Joe Forest. The trustees will be talking about a way to

dedicate something to the library in Joe's memory. One possibility would be to construct the pavilion in Joe's honor. The Historical Society said they'd be open to donating toward the project. The trustees need to accept the initial donations and decide how to proceed. We will continue to discuss if the Friends would be willing to consider collaborating toward the pavilion construction.

Old Business

Fundraisers

- Number Sold at Book Sale: totes - 13 trees - 57 quilt raffle tickets - \$145
It was good to be in the hallway and greet people as they entered. Also helped with Duck Ticket Sale. Thanks to all who helped with the sales.
- Total Sales to Date:
48 totes = \$960.00 163 trees = \$489 quilt raffle tickets = \$495
- Voting Sept. 10 - Volunteer Sign-up sheet was circulated. There are still time slots open so Cathy will reach out to people.

Application for Membership - Karen made a paper copy that was shared with the board.. It was decided that Karen will send this membership application to current members so we have people's mailing address as well as areas they are interested in volunteering. These forms can be brought to the next Friends' meeting or dropped off at the library or mailed to the library. Library staff will be asked to put returned forms in the Friends' folder in Dan's office. There is no space for the Friends to have a mailbox at the library.

Gambling Grant Money - Peggy contacted Allison Rickenbach and was told "The charitable gaming grant wasn't a hardcopy application; it was all done through a form she filled out online. This is the link to the application:

<https://playlikearebel.com/charitable-gaming-eligibility/>

The application questions were very straightforward. It was just background information on the Friends, a brief project summary and some background info.on Auburn. Allison hasn't heard anything back from them but will let Peggy know if she does.

Santa Breakfast - Dec. 10, 2024 8:00-11:00 Set-up Dec. 7 3:00-5:00

- Cathy and Cindy will meet as co chairs next week.
- Photographer - it was decided not to have a photographer this year as people can easily take pictures with their phones.
- Santa is all set to come.
- Elves costumes - Jess has a contact, Susan Boland who has volunteered to make the elf costumes including accessories.
- Cindy will make muffins instead of waffles.
- Discussion of expanding the menu to include eggs.

Duck Race Sept. 14 10am-3pm

- Pick-A-Duck - Pat C. shared there are only about 15 prizes and last year there were 30. Please email Pat C. at pclement60@yahoo.com if you have or get any donations.
- A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated.
- The library began selling tickets for the Duck Race on Aug.1st.
- Marie will get popcorn. She is also getting prizes for children.
- The Friends will have 2 tables: Pick-A-Duck (which will go quickly) and fundraiser items will be on 1 table and popcorn/water sales on the second table.

New Friends Logo - Nancy wasn't able to get a picture of the library for the Friends' new logo or cost for printing letterhead and thank you notes. Karen did not find any pictures when she looked through old minutes. Fay shared some stationary that has the picture we want as the logo. No discussion on next steps.

Shed Cleaning - The shed needs to be cleaned and an inventory of what is in a box should be written on the outside of the box. This will be done once the weather is cooler. Discuss at Sept. meeting.

Plastic Bag Drive - Jess reported that 746 pounds of plastic has been collected. Only 254 pounds to go!

Elections in December - Pat shared that elections of Friends' board positions will be in December and she encourages people to consider being on the board. Marie will not be returning to the board so a treasurer will be needed. Pat also explained that a person can only hold a position for 3 years.

Author Visits - still on hold until we get approval to use AVS

1. Sisters in Crime www.sincne.org A motion was made at the April meeting to host a Sisters in Crime event. No amount was stated as it depends on how many authors participate. It will be between \$150-\$200.
Dan submitted an application to use the school for this event on 10/17/24, but won't know if it's approved until Sept.
2. John Rockwood <https://www.facebook.com/THE.LOON.MAN/> Dan shared that John is willing to come speak once we choose some dates.

Action Items

1. Karen - include 20% discount on tickets to the NH Philharmonic Orchestra in the next Crier article
2. Cathy - reach out to fill open slots for fundraiser sales during elections on 9/10

3. All - more prizes for Pick-A-Duck needed. Please email Pat C. at pclement60@yahoo.com if you have or get any donations.
4. ?Next steps for Friends' new logo and printing of letterhead and note cards.
5. Pat D. - agenda item for Sept. - date for shed cleaning
6. Pat D. - agenda Item for Sept. - scheduling authors
7. All - consider taking a Friends' board position

Motion to adjourn at 8:17 PM 1st Brenda 2nd Terry

Next Friends' Meeting: **Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024 at 6:00pm** at the library.
(change from our regular schedule due to Monday holiday)

Karen Murray
Secretary Friends of the Griffin Free Public Library