

## Friends of the Griffin Free Library - September 3, 2024

Present: Pat Davenport, Cathy Sartorelli, Marie Sullivan, Sharon O'Leary Graves, Jess Traynor, Brenda Brunelli, Terry Coll, Joanne Linxweiler, Fay Hanscomb, Elaine Willett, Jordan Asselin, Cindy Berling, Pat Clement, Dan Szczesny, and Karen Murray

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

### Secretary's Report

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report. 1st Fay and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat D. - motion passed

Membership Forms - 16 online forms were received and 4 printed copies. Others are encouraged to complete these forms. Copies will be available at the Friends' table on Election Day and at the Duck Race. The area of interest section will help us know who to contact for support with our various events.

### Treasurer's Report

8/5 Balance		\$6032.83
8/28 Deposit (bags, ornaments, raffle)	+415.00	6447.83
9/3 Deposit (bags, ornaments, raffle)	+245.00	6692.83
8/30 Interest	+ .06	6692.89

Marie noted \$660 from the fundraisers of quilt raffle, ornaments and tote bags was deposited!

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

1st Elaine and 2<sup>nd</sup> Terry-motion passed.

### Director's Report

1. **Museum Passes** - The new website came with a Museum Pass platform which is more user friendly and much more attractive. Dan encouraged us to check it out. The switch of platforms caused disruption so the museum pass usage numbers are not exact. No concerning trends were noticed. Statistics will be back to normal next month.

There was a question with the payment for the pass to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. Marie noted the check was cashed on 8/28/24 so the issue is solved. The staff is also trying to clarify the expiration date of NE Aquarium Pass. Waiting to hear back if the pass expires on 8/24 or 8/25.

This month it was proposed for the Friends to consider funding a pass to Historic New England. (See New Business)

2. **Creative Bug** - Patrons are still slow to use this service during the summer. There are currently 76 active users. The hope is that there will be an increase in the fall. The library staff will put together a PR strategy so the community can better learn about it. Friends are encouraged to share on social media also.
3. **Patron Usage** - Patron usage continues to expand. Counting the success of the Book Sale which was estimated as having 500 visitors, August numbers jumped by 25.7%. Even without the book sale numbers, there is still a 20% increase from 2023. Dan emphasized this is how the community is using the library and these numbers should serve the loudest argument for the need for more space and staffing.
4. **Circulation Usage** - As in the past circulation dipped in August, but is nothing to be concerned about. Aug. 24th showed a 3.5% increase over Aug. 23rd. A jump in Creative Bug usage will go toward the digital circulation numbers.
5. **Sisters in Crime** - Dan shared that Cathy has done a great job pulling this together on short notice. Jordan made a flier which may need some tweaking. A Facebook Event page will be created and people will be invited. All are encouraged to spread the word about this event.
6. **Friends Social Media** - It's a good time for the Friends to expand their social media presence. Jess is the administrator of a FB she built on 6/15/24. Dan talked to Cindy about working on the design and info for the Friends' website that's linked to the library website. It may be of value to focus on sales of merchandise.

Website - Cindy is working on updating the calendar. We will discuss if we want a link to purchase fundraiser items. It would be nice to have a tie-in with the library's new website.

Social Media - Jess and Jordan volunteered to take on the social media for our Friends' group. Thanks!!

Meeting to discuss our website and other social media will be Monday, Oct. 7th at 6:00PM at the library. This will be prior to our next Friends' meeting.

7. **Fall Reading Program** - After a successful summer reading program, the library raffled off a gift basket (book, wine, etc.). The hope is that the Friends might consider donating this year's Fall Reading Gift Basket. The basket will include signed books, cider spice, bottle of spirits, etc.). This was a huge incentive for adult readers over the summer and a Friends' sponsorship would give PR and good will. The request is for \$150 for the basket.

The funding of the gift basket was discussed and the question was raised whether the Trustees would be willing to fund the basket with some of the profit from the Book Sale. We will hear more about this at our October Meeting.

8. The Library will present their budget at the Selectboard Meeting on 10/21/24 at 7:00PM.

### **Old Business**

#### Sisters in Crime Mystery Making - Thursday, Oct. 17th at AVS 6:30-8:00

- Jordan made a flier for the event. Thank you to Jordan!
- Volunteers are needed - Cathy passed a sign-up sheet
- Charge is \$150 which is \$50 per author
- Marie will get small bottles of water
- Volunteered will be asked to donate baked goods
- There was a lot of discussion to determine if we should charge for this event.  
Some comments:
  - This event is inexpensive compared to other authors we've hosted
  - When an event is expensive we may need to raise some of the money
  - Hosting an author is a community service
  - We fundraise so we can do these type of activities for the community
  - We may want to consider getting sponsors to pay for events like this
  - A member of our group should speak to talk about the Friends and "pass the hat"
  - Use the box Fay made for donations
- The consensus at the end of the discussion was "Donations Gratefully Accepted" for this event

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

- There will be a planning meeting on Wed. 9/11 from 6-7:30 at the library
- Reminder to fill-out the survey that was sent as everyone's input is valued
- Elf costumes are coming along
- There was discussion on this being a fundraiser event and should have a suggested donation amount
- The PTA will not be holding an event the day of the breakfast. They will do a free movie night and gifts for children to purchase on a different date

#### Duck Race Sept. 14 10am-3pm

- Pick-A-Duck - Pat C. shared there she has over 30 adult prizes and more were given to her at the meeting
- Volunteer sign-up was passed around
- Arrangements for tables, pop-ups and cash box were finalized

#### Voting Day Fundraiser Sales Tuesday, Sept. 10 7AM-7PM

- Volunteers still needed
- Cathy will set-up square and look for additional volunteers

Shed Cleaning - A group of volunteers: Pat, Fay, Jess, Sharon, Marie, Cathy, and Elaine will meet on Monday, Sept. 9th at 9:00AM to clean the shed.

Jess asked about purchasing clear totes so the items stored can be easily seen. A motion was made to purchase clear totes. 1st Fay, 2nd Brenda and the motion passed.

#### Author Visit

John Rockwood <https://www.facebook.com/THE.LOON.MAN/> Dan will contact John about speaking on Thursday, Nov. 14th at the library.

Plastic Bag Drive - Kudos to Jess and Sharon for leading a successful plastic drive. Thanks also to Elaine and Karen who helped. Sharon will send a thank you to Shaws.

#### **New Business**

Copying Friends Materials at the Library - There was a discussion whether the charge for making copies at the library should be waived/reduced for Friends' materials when a small quantity is needed. This should be discussed by the Trustees. Cindy or Dan will bring this up at the next Trustee Meeting.

Historic New England Pass <https://www.historicnewengland.org/> - Dan and Jess talked about the Historic New England pass. Fifty passes can be purchased for \$150.00.

These passes provide admission into a number of homes/farms in New England. Each pass will provide admission for 2 adults, their children and grandchildren under eighteen. A motion was made to fund the Historic New England Pass.

1st Marie and 2nd Cathy - motion passed.

Jess will fill-out an application and pay for the pass. Marie will write a check to reimburse her. The hope is that this pass will be available during the first part of October. Karen will check with Jess about the status of this pass before sharing information in the Crier.

Friends of the Library Group Idea Sharing Event - There will be an idea-sharing meeting with other Rockingham area Friends groups on Oct. 10th from 3-5 at the Exeter Library. Karen previously sent an email regarding this. Members who are attending will discuss carpooling at the Oct. meeting.

#### **Action Items**

1. Cindy or Dan - discuss with Trustees whether the charge for making copies at the library should be waived/reduced for small quantities of Friends' materials
2. All - complete membership form if you haven't already submitted
3. Jess or Dan - clarify the expiration date of NE Aquarium Pass 8/24 or 8/25

4. All - share information on Creative Bug to increase interest
5. All - share information on Sisters in Crime Event
6. Dan - will find out if Trustees will fund the Fall Gift Basket
7. Jess - purchase pass to Historic New England
8. Karen - include info on Historic New England pass in the Crier
9. Anyone who wants - attend meeting to discuss our website and other social media will be Monday, Oct. 7th at 6:00PM at the library
10. Volunteers - Clean shed on 9/9 at 9:00AM
11. Cathy - setup Square and get additional volunteers for 9/10 fundraiser sale
12. Sharon - thank you note to Shaws
13. Pat D - agenda item for Oct.- printing of letterhead and note cards
14. Pat D. - agenda item for Oct. author visits - Sisters in Crime and John Rockwood
15. Pat D. - agenda item for Oct. discuss carpooling to Library Sharing Event

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM

Next Friends' Meetings: **October, Sept. 7, 2024 at 6:30PM\*** at the library.

Meeting to discuss Friends' social media **October 7, 2024 at 6:00PM** at library.

\*Note earlier time

Karen Murray

Secretary Friends of the Griffin Free Public Library