

Friends of the Griffin Free Library - November 4, 2024

Present: Pat Davenport, Cathy Sartorelli, Marie Sullivan, Ron Correia, Cindi Correia, Nancy Mayland, Jess Traynor, Pat Clement, Cindy Berling, Brenda Beer, Terry Coll, Brenda Brunelli, Joanne Linxweiler, Sharon O'Leary Graves, Fay Hanscomb, Patti Allard, Jordan Asselin, Dan Szczesny, and Karen Murray

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Secretary's Report

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report. 1st Nancy and 2nd Brenda Beer - motion passed

Membership Forms - 30 membership forms have been received. Six members have not yet completed their forms. Karen will send one final email to these people and if they do not reply their names will be removed from our membership list. Once finalized Karen will share the membership list with all. In addition she created a list of events and members who are willing to volunteer for each event. Membership forms will be available at the library and the Friends' table on 11/5 Election Day.

Treasurer's Report

Balance		\$7054.75
10/7 Deposit (Duck Tickets)	+290.00	7344.75
10/11 Jillian Matarazzo Peterson (Bricks)	- 200.00	7144.75
10/11 Museum of Science	-700.00	6444.75
10/17 Matt Cost (Mystery Book)	- 67.00	6377.75
10/17 Sharon Daynard (book)	- 50.00	6327.75
10/17 Corinne Johnson Habley (book)	- 70.00	6257.75
10/25 Aviation Museum	-150.00	6107.75
11/4 Deposit	+ 48 00	6155.75
9/30 Interest	+ .06	6155.81

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

1st Nancy and 2nd Terry - motion passed.

Director's Report

1. **Museum Passes** - October was another strong month for passes with 12 going out which is better than last Oct. Total so far this year is 219 passes, which breaks last year's total of 199 and is up 26.5% to date.

Museum Pass Updates:

Historic NE: Tickets finally arrived! They gave us an extra 2 months for the subscription through Dec. 2025. There are 43 houses to visit.

New England Aquarium - We're fine through the 2025 season.

Aviation Museum - Check and renewal application was mailed last week.

2. **Creative Bug** - There was again an increase in Oct., from 10 to 32 views. There are currently 85 active users. Please continue to share on social media to get more people signed up.
3. **Patron Usage and General Stats** - Overall library usage is not letting up.
Patron Usage - up 15.4% Circulation Overall - up 4.6%
New Patrons - 170 this year Book Donations - up 34.8%
The need for increased staffing and resources continue to be apparent. Budget hearing before the Budget Committee is Nov. 21 at 7pm at the Town Hall. The library asked for 8 more hours in staffing and the Select Board compromised to give 4 additional hours.
4. **Sisters in Crime** - Cathy thanked all who helped with the event and all who came to support the event. Only 6 people in the audience were community members. Others were Friends' members or friends of the authors. Cathy raised the questions of who is our audience and how do we increase attendance.
5. **John Rockwood Loon Man** - This event is booked for Thurs., Nov. 14th from 6:30-8:00pm. There are flyers and a place to register on the library website. There is a limit of 25 people due to the room size so register ASAP. The cost of the presentation is \$150, payable the day of the talk.
6. **Pavilion Fundraising** - Discussion about potential donation toward the cause:
 - Cost is \$3600 - currently have \$1500-\$1700 in donations so need \$2000
 - Dan has not yet contacted business for donations, but he will do this.
 - Trustees only have taxpayers money. The Book Sale money will go toward the expansion.
 - The cost will increase in the future so this is a good time to do this project.
 - Background on Pavilion - It is a "pavilion in a box" that was purchased in Dec. 2021 from grant money that Kathy Growney, previous director, had applied for. The Friends also paid a portion of the cost.
 - Checks should be written to the library with restricted donation for the pavilion noted.
 - If additional money is donated from businesses or individuals the Friends donation will be reduced by that amount.

A motion was made that the Friends donate up to \$2000 for construction and assembly of the pavilion, less donations received for this work.

1st Brenda Beer and 2nd Fay - motion passed.

Old Business

Santa Breakfast - Dec. 8th 8:00-11:00 Set-up Dec. 7th 3:00-5:00 at AVS

- Co-chairs (Cathy and Cindy) met and a lot of progress was made.
- Many items will be donated, but will need to purchase home fries and eggs at a cost of \$154.
- Cathy shared that \$163 in donations has been collected at various events. It was decided this money will be used to purchase the food items listed above.
- Donations of muffins/pastries will be needed. Friehofer Bakery Outlet donated pastries in the past, but they have closed.
- Text or email Cindy (see below) if you can provide muffins or other pastries. Since we want a variety of types Cindy will let people know what is needed.
- Text or email Cindy or Cathy (see below) if you can help with set-up on 12/7 from 3-5.
- Santa will donate any money he receives.
- Jordan and/or Jess will tweak the poster to be used for the Crier, social media and displayed around town.

Cindy's contact info is cindyberling@gmail.com or (603)548-9676

Cathy's contact info is vicepresident@friendsofgriffinfree.org or (603)661-8567

Friends Fundraisers Update - Cathy has sold 276 ornaments for a total of \$828! Wow! Fifty- two tote bags have been sold.

Stationary and Note Cards - tabled until next meeting so Nancy can get information.

Voting Day Nov. 5th Fundraiser Sales Tote Bags and Ornaments - Cathy has volunteers set up to work 7am -6pm. In addition to selling items, information will be available for the John Rockwoods presentation, Santa Breakfast, and membership.

Friends Facebook Page - There are 98 people following the Friends Facebook Group. If you are on Facebook please like and share with friends to increase this number.

Friends of the Library Group Idea Sharing Event - Those who attended the Oct. 10th Rocking County Friends of the Library meeting in Exeter enjoyed it. Several other groups are having similar issues such as trying to get a younger demographic for membership. Many groups are receiving gambling money. One group runs a thrift shop.

The next meeting of the Joint Library Friends Group will be Thurs., Nov. 14th from 5-7pm at the Newmarket Public Library in Newmarket. The topic is gaining membership. Jess will be going so contact her if you'd like to carpool.

Gambling Money - We should consider having a subcommittee to investigate this resource. Karen reminded those in attendance that Peggy Neveu had shared some information about the status of the grant submitted by the Expansion Committee

The following is from the minutes of our August 5, 2024 Friends Meeting:

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. about Auburn."

Allison hasn't heard anything back from them but will let Peggy know if she does.

New Business

Author Visit - John Rockwood Thursday, Nov. 14th from 6:30-8:00PM at the library

John will sell his book. <https://www.facebook.com/THE.LOON.MAN/>

- Jess and Jordan made a flier and will continue to advertise on social media
- Sharon, Pat D, and Karen will bring snacks, Karen will bring water also.

Crier - Pat D. noted that the Library and Friends articles in the Crier look good.

Donation Button on Library Website and Friends Website - We want to make sure these buttons are working. Also want to verify which accounts they are linked to. Marie and Cindy will work on this.

Friends' Meeting Time - There was a vote and Friends Meetings will start at 6:30pm.

The Owl - The Owl was purchased by Friends during COVID so people could attend meetings with Zoom. We should consider using this again.

Sisters in Crime Event Pictures - Jess will send pictures from Sisters in Crime Event to Cindy. Cindy will post these pictures on the Friends website.

Elections - We will need a new President and Treasurer. Please consider filling these positions.

Action Items

1. All - share information on Creative Bug to increase interest
2. All - if you have boxes (copy paper size) donate to library to store donated book
3. All - share John Rockwood event information on Facebook and other means

4. Nancy - pricing for stationary and card
5. Jess and/or Jordan - flyer and social media for Santa Breakfast
6. Karen - Santa Breakfast info for Crier article
7. Anyone who can provide baked goods for Santa Breakfast - email or text Cindy
8. Anyone who can help set-up for Santa Breakfast - email or text Cindy or Cathy
Cindy's contact info is cindyberling@gmail.com or (603)548-9676
Cathy's contact info is vicepresident@friendsofgriffinfree.org or (603)661-8567
9. Sharon, Pat D, and Karen - snacks for John Rockwood Presentation 11/14
10. Marie and Cindy - checkout donate buttons on Friends website and Library website
11. Jess - send pictures from Sisters in Crime Event to Cindy
12. Cindy - post Sister in Crime Events pictures on the Friends website.
13. All - consider filling Friends' President and Treasurer positions

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM

1st Marie and 2nd Brenda Brunelli - motion passed.

Next Friends' Meetings: **December 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** at the library.

**Note our new earlier meeting time*

Karen Murray

Secretary Friends of the Griffin Free Public Library