

July 17, 2019 Minutes of the Board of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library

Present: Joyce Marcel, Connie Kimball, Sue Dyer, John Komar, Jamie Harvey, Kathryn Turnas, Betsy Wagenknecht, Karen Duggan, Jane Southworth (for the Trustees), Courtney Carey and Starr Latronica (for the library). Joyce noted that the full board was present!

The meeting was called to order at 4:33pm.

The corrected April treasurer's report was accepted and will be filed for audit. Connie will correct the May and June reports and bring them to our August meeting.

Joyce shared some ideas from a conference she recently attended: tie-in a food drive with the book sale; compliment the librarian as often as possible; be sure our organization has a Memorandum of Understanding with the town (Joyce will check); include a donate button on every library social media site; think about estate planning/planned giving (the Trustees are looking into this); getting a lawyer or a lawyer's services (gratis) for our board; think about tailoring events to donors' interests. She noted that there are 183 libraries in Vermont.

Joyce reminded us of some ideas from our June retreat: adding another floor to the library (Starr will talk to Town Manager Elwell about this); adding a book lending component to Meals on Wheels; trying to get a showing of the First Wednesday programs for those who cannot attend in the evenings.

Joyce shared that she would like to see three events each year that create a bigger plan for annually raising money. Ideas included our dessert evening during Library Week, a Friends' Week party, something during February's "I Love my Library" month and something in the summer (besides the Book Sale). We talked about holding one fundraiser aimed at supporting children's programming specifically, and about including a "Donation Station" at all our events. We will discuss these ideas further at a future meeting.

The June Book Sale was a huge success, netting \$4450 in profit, including \$50 from the Amy Wickstrom tote bag raffle. At the end of the sale, patrons could buy a Friends' tote bag and fill it for free (Courtney's great idea; all tote bags are gone now!). Betsy took boxes of leftover books to Roundabout Books in Greenfield, and the Retreat took the remainders. Courtney was able to get some new volunteers for this sale, as well. Thanks again to Betsy for her work on this!

The May minutes will be revisited next month to include notes about an email vote.

The Friends and the new banner were well-received in the Fourth of July parade. For next year, we might consider handing out bookmarks listing dates of upcoming events.

John has secured \$2000 for First Wednesdays, and he is working with a few more possible sponsors. Leader Beverage will donate bottled water to the library for events. Thanks again to John for his work on this.

Do we want to sell more Friends' merchandise—bags, t-shirts, mugs? John and Courtney will do some research and get back to the board.

We discussed revisions to the donation page on the newsletter. We all liked the idea of "Join the Friends" and would like it to be a more general donation page. Jamie will ask for some information about language and format from his colleagues at Marlboro College before it is revised.

Connie suggested that we allow the staff to use the funds in each budget as they see fit, rather than making them come to our board with requests each month. Requests after the total budgeted amount would still need to come before the Friends' board. Courtney suggested that there could then be a report at each meeting, telling us how the funds were used. After a discussion, we decided to table this decision.

Starr requested the following and all were approved: \$750 for the Star Lab, a total of \$500 for Meg Mott for the series on the Amendments, and enough money to get a stand-type holder for our new Friends' flag (Joyce will order this). Connie will order the telescope that Starr chose, based on her research with other libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Duggan

Addendum: On July 12, 2019, we voted via email to fund "First Mime on the Moon" for \$400.