

## August 21, 2019 Minutes of the Board of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library

Present: Joyce Marcel, Betsy Wagenknecht, Connie Kimball, John Komar, Sue Dyer, Jamie Harvey, Kathryn Turnas, Karen Duggan, Starr Latronica and Courtney Carey (for the library), Howard Burroughs (for the Trustees), Bob Oeser, Lissa Weinmann and Mary Ide (visitors)

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm.

The minutes, which included an addendum about an email vote, were accepted.

The treasurer's reports for May, June and July were accepted and will be filed for audit. As of July 31, our treasury balance was \$49, 117.55.

Joyce bought a stand for our new Friends' flag.

Joyce checked on whether we have a MOU with the town. The town is not sure if we do or if we need one; they are checking and will get back to Joyce.

We discussed our Friends' website. We all agreed it was important. Two suggestions were made: to use it to advertise First Wednesdays, and to add a link to our book sale on Amazon. Bob Oeser will work on this with Susan Rhode, who manages the website.

We received two pieces of correspondence: a thank you from the Bennington Museum for our purchase of a pass, and an invitation to the NELA Conference in Mystic, CT. in October.

John reported that \$2550 of the \$2900 for First Wednesdays has been raised or promised. Thank you notes were given to each sponsor. We discussed whether to acknowledge the differences in donations and whether we might have tiered levels of sponsorship (for next year). Bob Oeser suggested deferring to the Humanities Council on this issue, and Starr will check policies of other libraries sponsoring First Wednesdays. Thanks to John for his work on this.

Jamie led a discussion around newsletter issues. We discussed whether and how we could send more copies electronically, who should receive the newsletter, mailing costs and printing options. Jamie will investigate some options and report back to the board.

Lissa Weinmann of the Words Project asked for funding to offer a free public workshop on Audio Storytelling, to be presented here at Brooks by the Vermont Folklife Center on October 26th. The library has already received a donation of two audio recording set-ups which are necessary for this project. The Words Project includes our library as one of its community partners. We voted to donate \$1,000, which will be matched by a federal grant.

We agreed that we would like to offer a continuous feed of our sponsored programs on one of the library computers. We would also like to offer a recorded showing of the First Wednesday programs during daytime hours, for those who might not be able to come in the evenings. We will talk more about this at our next meeting.

Courtney asked for help cleaning the storage closet. Betsy, Jamie and Karen offered to help.

Betsy agreed to oversee sorting the books that have been donated. We hope to find another person to help.

We will return to the discussion about book bags next month.

Friends of the Library Week is October 20-26, 2019. The Audio Storytelling workshop will be our main event for that week, and Karen, Sue and Joyce will plan a breakfast to be held the same morning.

Starr reported that the library has found an archivist to organize our collection of artifacts. We had already agreed to fund this. She also requested \$3,336. for 8 reconditioned laptops and \$400 for more amendment presentations by Meg Mott. Both requests were approved by the board.

Starr also reported that Kanopy is so popular that they have changed the limit to 5 movies/month. They are encouraging people to use RB Digital for the "Great Courses," and they are looking into "Brit Box."

The December Book Sale will be held on December 12, 13, and 14, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Duggan