

Meeting of the Board of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library
April 15, 2020

The meeting was held by conference call. Participating were Joyce Marcel, Betsy Wagenknecht, Connie Kimball, Karen Duggan, Cindy Hutchinson, visitors Kate Wylie and Erika Phillips, Starr Latronica and Courtney Carey (for the library), Leo Schiff and Howard Burrows (for the Trustees).

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

The minutes were accepted with the corrected spelling of Howard's last name.

The treasurer's report was accepted and will be filed for audit. As of March 31, 2020, our treasury balance is \$44,465.20.

Joyce asked that you please let her know if you are unable to attend a meeting.

Although there are some new fees for selling books on Amazon, it has been recommended that we not try to set up our own system for online sales (as had been recommended for larger libraries doing a greater volume of business).

We discussed many ideas for how to help the library during the COVID-19 shutdown. Starr suggested continuing to post signs in the library windows and reposting Brooks' messages on social media (library cards are available now for online services, Kanopy has lifted the limit on children's programming, downloads of books, audio and streaming of Acorn and Kanopy are all still available), with the larger goal of keeping the library visible during this time. The library is also getting this message out via Facebook pages, Constant Contact, and interviews with Starr on both WVEW and Wendy O'Connell's BCTV show.

When we do reopen, there will be lots to do, including plans for a gradual, safe reopening and return of materials, new initiatives like gardening (in conjunction with the town sustainability coordinator), plans for a celebration and plans for how to move forward with library activities, programs and fundraising.

John shared, via Joyce, suggestions for how to help BMH. Those are listed on the hospital's website if anyone would like to help personally. They are looking for tablets to borrow, but Starr reports the staff is using those to work from home.

Betsy is working on the newsletter, which is ever-changing!

Given the Governor's orders and the change in plans for the Heifer parade, we are not able to decide about a book sale at this time.

Beside sharing the library's message on social media, Starr asked that we encourage people to complete their census forms, as so much depends on the results. Because she also spoke about signs in the front windows, we voted to purchase some; Starr and Joyce will work on those plans and report back to the Board via email.

The Annual Meeting will be held via phone on May 20, 2020. We will let Friends know via the newsletter, notecards, and email. Those who would like to attend should email Joyce so that she can include them in our call.

Joyce also reminded people to buy stamps in support of the Post Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Duggan