

Friends of Brooks Memorial Library
Minutes of Board Meeting, via Zoom
November 17, 2021

Present: Board Members Joyce Marcel, Connie Kimball, Sue Dyer, Sharon Myers, Kevin O'Keefe, and Diane Leary (Karen Duggan and Amity DeAngelis were away, assisting with the book sale set-up); Library Director Starr LaTronica and Library Trustees Jane Southworth and Howard Burrows

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report (submitted by email)

There were no expenses for the month of November. The balance as of 10/31/2021 was \$45,142.07.

President's Report

- annual appeal
The appeal letter has gone out. Some envelopes have been returned.
- book sale
The sale begins Thursday, 11/18/21. There are more books than usual, in part because we have not held a sale for two years. (In the future, we may need additional shelves, but we should wait to see if they are needed.) A "Cat in the Hat" chair will be included in the sale, to be raffled off at \$1/ticket.
- valuable books
We have 313 valuable books for sale. In the past, two former members sold some of what we had on Amazon, but this is no longer possible. We have a list of the books, and Randy Holhut has taken photos of the spines. The list was sent to Ken Gloss at Brattle Book Shop in Boston, but he declined to purchase any. Joyce suggested that we send this list to antiquarian book sellers. Diane will generate a list of potential sellers, and Joyce will write a cover letter. Ideally, one dealer would buy them all, but we will consider selling them in smaller groups.
- building the board
Joyce will send a letter to large organizations and businesses in town, asking them to encourage their employees to consider joining our board.

Tattoo Committee Report: nothing new to report

Library Report (Starr reporting)

- book sale: starts 11/18/21
- Katherine Paterson talk (11/12/21)
The event was well attended (50 people, including 3 children); local authors Karen Hesse and Eileen Christelow were among those attending. A nice supper was prepared beforehand by the church ladies at the Centre Congregational Church. Ms. Paterson was interviewed by the Children's Librarian. She addressed the issue of writing about challenging topics, as she has come under fire for her writings. She believes children can and need to deal with difficult topics.
- "Nowell Sing We Clear" (12/7/21)
The event will be held at the Guilford Church and live streamed and recorded. (The venue was changed because of a masking issue for the singers.)
- Town Manager
The new Town Manager will be hosted at two public forums (1:00-2:30 and an after-work-hours time).
- new library staff
Sid Silverman has been hired for the Children's Room and Jenn Robb for ILL. The library is looking for a new Circulation staff person
- staff requests: none at this time

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Submitted by Diane Leary