

Friends of Brooks Memorial Library

Minutes of Board Meeting – January 19, 2022, via Zoom

Present: Joyce Marcel, Connie Kimball, Diane Leary, Sue Dyer, Sharon Myer, Kevin O’Keefe, Karen Duggan, Starr Latronica (for the library), Jane Southworth and Howard Burrows (for the trustees), and Bob Oeser (guest)

Joyce Marcel called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer’s report was approved and will be filed for audit. Our balance as of December 31, 2021, was \$57,585.88.

President’s Report

Joyce has registered us again with the Vermont Secretary of State.

She and Jeni will work on our application to Brattleboro Co-op’s “Round-Up” fundraising program.

Financial Discussion

Todd Gray from the Vermont Trust Company spoke to us about a possible investment of a portion of our savings. He presented information about a Vanguard-Wellington Fund account, which invests 65/35 stocks/bonds and which is used by many non-profits. He feels it is a dependable company with more conservative/lower risk investments. He had specific recommendations about how we might decide how much to invest should we decide to do so.

As we discussed this possibility after he left, Connie suggested that we might want to use some of our funds to buy larger items for the library. Starr had these suggestions: more Kanopy, more in-person programming (when we can), art purchases and displays, up-to-date art books, bike tools, foreign language books (with guidance from the state), updated take-home technology. The Trustees are polling the community around needs, and Starr hopes this might give us even more ideas for purchases.

We had a good discussion but came to no decision around moving the Friends’ money.

Book Sale Report

The Book Sale was a success, with a profit of \$6,028.50. We believe we sold about 100 boxes of books. The “by-donation” portion of the sale was very well received. The remaining books were delivered to Roundabout in Greenfield. Many people helped, and we are especially grateful to Mary Ide, Therese Marcy, Betsy Wagenknecht, and board members for their input and help. We will work with Starr to find a way to thank the library staff who helped us during what turned out to be a long sale.

Diane, Sharon, and Joyce, with help from Bob Oeser, are still navigating specifics around the sale of specially-priced books to area booksellers and via Amazon. Diane has sent out the booklists, and Sharon is following up on the Amazon sales. Howard offered to contact Grey Matter Books in Northampton with the list.

Library Director’s Report

Starr spoke about issues of censorship occurring in our country but also noted that we have had no local issues so far. She suggested that Friends could write letters to the editor and talk to neighbors about why different points of view are important. She suggested going to the ALA website for talking points around issues of intellectual freedom.

Starr made two requests – \$2,500 to fund Kanopy through June and \$50 for a bike pump – and both were approved. She mentioned that the library has assumed the cost of funding the Foundation Center materials and that she is looking into a different film service, called Hoopla. She will report back on that when she has more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Duggan