

Friends of the Brooks Memorial Library Board Meeting

Date: 4/16/25

In attendance: S. LaTronica, K. Duggan, S. Dyer, C. Cline, D. Leary, A. Whiting,
D. Doiron, J. Stockman, K. O'Keefe

Guest: (Trustee) Leo Schiff

Call to order: @ 4:34

1. Minutes of last meeting (Janice): reviewed and accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report: Dayle (see separate report for details)

Opening Balance March 1 : \$ 87,432.90

Closing Balance March 31: \$ 84,08.44

The Budget for 2026 (Dayle, Karen, and Starr developed) will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May. The figures were derived by looking at the last 2 years' spending. The total is \$500 less than the previous year. Programs were cut by \$100 each (Adult, Childrens, etc.). The "Reserved" line provides for any unforeseen costs.

3. Presidents' Report: Karen and Sue

Slate of officers for the coming year: Dayle, Sue, and Karen continue in their current roles. Janice will take over as secretary. A \$16,000 technology grant application was completed for the Thompson Trust.

Karen purchased a card and a gift certificate for the Coop to be given to the Children's Room librarian Francisco and his wife Catherine.

4. Spring Event- June 12, 2025

Committee members: Connie C., Janice, Karen, and Starr.

They have met 2 times.

The event "What's Cooking at Brooks" will showcase the Library of Things.

The focus will be on cooking item stations set up around the room (e.g. waffle maker, air fryer, crockpot, etc.). Food will be prepared at each station.

A voting area will be set up asking guests to choose new items to be purchased.

Board members and Trustees will make food as back-up.

Amanda has begun work on the poster.

5. Staff Snacks discussion:

A suggestion was made that it might be better to give each staff member a gift card on their Date of Hire anniversary (rather than continue to provide snacks).

The decision was postponed until May.

6. Library Advocacy discussion/action

Board members were encouraged to write to Congress people, the Governor and others to advocate for libraries.

The library may lose services provided by the federal agency IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services). This provides for Inter-library loans service, work force development, the Able Library for the visually impaired, and the Clover system.

7. Library report/requests : Starr and Amanda

. There is no town budget at present. The library gets 81% of its funding from the town.

The Town covers: staff, some materials, building upkeep, renovations, and maintenance.

Members were encouraged to write to Select Board members to advocate for continued library hours and services.

Starr requested:

. \$200 for Function Play (circus play skills)

. \$500 for Big Woods Voices, an Acapella group who perform songs based on poems.

Total requests: \$700 was approved.

Amanda : passed out a report (see attached).

No requests this month.

8. New Business : none

Meeting adjourned at 6:00

Submitted by Diane Leary, Secretary