

Friends of the Brooks Memorial Library
Minutes
October 15, 2025

Present: Karen Duggan, Dayle Doiron, Janice Stockman, Bob Oeser, Ann Varilly, Diane Leary
Absent: Kevin O'Keefe, Connie Kimball, Sharon Myers, Sue Dyer

Meeting was called to order at 4:31

The Secretary's report for September was approved with the addition of "tax exempt status declaration" to an action Karen took to order stationery.

Treasurer's report for September: Dayle explained there was a major purchase of computer hardware last month out of the grant from Thomas Thompson Trust. There will be another purchase of MS Office licenses next month. Dayle is watching the balance in the checking account to make sure there's enough money there for upcoming expenses—she will move money from the Fidelity account if needed. Diane moved to accept the report; Connie C seconded; report accepted.

Presidents' report

Book Sale update

- Book sale sorting is going well; boxes can be stashed under stacks on the first floor if there aren't books to be sorted. While Karen is away, Amanda will send out a call for helpers if we need them. We signed up for shifts; Amanda has the sheet. Amanda will make posters and Friends will distribute them around town. Janice will send out the Places to Post list with assignments.

Annual Appeal update

- Ann asked if the Friends could pick up the postage and printing of the appeal letters this year to alleviate budget tightening on their end. This amounts to about 1300.00. Discussion ensued and there was a common sentiment that it seems like the Friends should pay for it because it is our appeal and the donations come to us. Diana moved that the Friends should pay for both postage and printing; Connie C seconded. Motion was approved and Friends will assume the cost beginning this year.

Library updates/requests

- Museum Passes—Billings Farm and Museum card is lost, there is a \$50 replacement fee. Amanda is going to enroll us in digital museum passes for all museums that accept it. There is a lot of re-training to do before implementing this change. Billings may accept it and if so we won't need to replace our hard copy. People will be able to use the card more frequently. People who don't have a device can come into the library to reserve a card and get a hard copy pass.

- Starr's Requests– \$2000 to contribute to the **Kanopy** subscription. Dayle pointed out that the Friends did contribute \$3000 to Kanopy earlier this year. Dayle requested we have more information about how much the Friends will be asked to chip in for Kanopy. \$240 for **community read of Circle of Sawdust** by Rob Mermin about Circus Smirkus (purchase 15 books). \$200-300 for another 4-6 sessions of **Silver Circus** through NECCA. Total request from Starr comes to \$2540. Motion approved.
- Request from Brattleboro Historical Society: They are unveiling a new publication called Brattleboro on Parade and are asking the Friends to sell these at our book sale. The book costs \$20 and we would get \$8; they would take back any unsold books. We will not have to keep separate records since we just return unsold books. We agreed to do this.

Other business

- Ann mentioned that non-resident passes will be increasing to \$120 per family (from \$62) beginning Jan. 1, 2026. They are considering starting a scholarship fund for hardship cases and wonder if the Friends can manage it. We discussed the pros and cons of such a project, including things like the awkwardness of patrons asking for financial assistance of their library, to "tiered levels" of assistance for specific categories (teachers, seniors...) to funding this with donations from private businesses. The consensus was that we couldn't make a decision today, that the Trustees and the Friends should think about this some more. Amanda told us that it would be a few years before we know how many non-residents drop their membership because many of them are renewing now for two or more years. No decision was made.
- \$2000 grant for the Miniature Program from the Kahn Foundation to pay for materials and the artist to paint the window, and whatever is left over will be split among the people who worked on the dioramas.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Stockman
Secretary