

## **FOL ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 5/2/20**

**Given the Covid-19 crisis and the state's shelter-in-place policy, this meeting occurred using the Zoom Platform.**

### **\_Welcome**

In attendance: Sarah Groleau, Donna Tung, Anne Cunningham, Harriet Fishman, Diane Claveau, Gay Mocerri, Cindy Fleming, Shana Aisenberg, Judy Kucera, Claire Tracey, Jen Meers, Kris Niiler, Miriam Englund and Lee Allison.

Also attending were Trustees Chuck Brooks, Paul Mathieu, Maureen Elliott and Library Director, Elizabeth Rhymer.

### **Secretary's Report.** Harriet Fishman

Motion to Approve Executive Board's Vote to Approve the Minutes from the November 9, 2019 Board Meeting made, seconded and unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report.** Anne Cunningham

Motion to Approve Executive Board's Vote to Approve the Treasurer's Report made, seconded and unanimously approved. See attached report.

There was discussion about the income, specifically the year-to-date gifts (high because of the Thrivent donation) and the unknown summer expenses (museum passes, programs, conferences, etc.). It is difficult to estimate expenses when serious questions remain about whether there will be any summer programs (as just 1 example).

One of the quite good decisions made by the Friends of the Library this year was the purchase of an annual subscription to Kanopy. Our cost, \$1,300 per year with unlimited use, came at the perfect time. (See Librarian's report)

We have \$34,787 in total funds. CD's will be purchased, as approved at our prior meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Book Sale.** Claire Tracey

For the year 2019, book sales totaled \$1,978. In terms of summer or winter 2020 book sale, a wait and see attitude must be taken. Sarah will speak with Claire and Elizabeth in approximately 2 weeks and discuss summer plans (if any). The challenge faced by storing books if we are still in lockdown was raised.

#### **Bake Sale.** Judy Kucera

2019 proved to be a very successful bake sale year. Judy believes receiving larger baked goods and pricing them appropriately made the difference. She was pleased to receive baked goods from new folks and hopes that continues. In terms of 2020, a wait and see attitude must be taken. Sarah will speak with Judy in approximately 2 weeks and discuss summer plans (if any).

#### **Library Director's Report.** Elizabeth Rhymer

See attached Report.

To put Kanopy numbers in perspective, if we were to have chosen the pay/play option, our bill for 4 months = \$818. This compares with the \$1,300 we will pay for 12 months of usage.

Elizabeth announced she just received word from the Committee that 2020 Ducky Day and OHW are cancelled.

### **Other Old Business**

The Executive Committee voted to approve the expenditure of \$500 on Elizabeth/the Trustee's request to purchase gift certificates from local merchants for the summer reading program. These are the same merchants who usually donate gift certificates to us for our the summer reading program.

### **Fundraising**

Sarah outlined the 3 choices detailed in the 4/25/20 email circulated to all board members; then, requested opinions from the board. Understanding the need to be sensitive towards many individual's financial situation but realizing our "charge" is to fundraise for the library, there was quick consensus around Option 1: mailing the newsletter (but probably not the calendar), a donation card and an envelope to all Freedom addresses. Highlighted will be all the great things going on at the library (virtually or otherwise) and thanks offered to Elizabeth for the amazing job she is doing in finding ways to stay connected with the community during social distancing. As part of the President's note, Sarah will ask anyone who is able to give during these tough times to consider supporting the Library. The request for a donation will not be aggressive. We will try to jazz up the envelope so it does not look like another piece of junk mail. It was noteworthy that Cindy initially took the lead during the discussion by commenting how our community has come together during this pandemic in amazing ways and that being included in the "ask" is a part of community.

Donating to FOL via Venmo was discussed and Anne will check on the cost of this service. Paypal can be used for donations, as well.

Motion by Jen, seconded by Kris and approved by the Board to allow the Executive Committee to determine timing: whether to send the letter during the July 4<sup>th</sup> week (and remain on schedule) or wait until late July/early August. The Board will be kept informed of this decision.

Finally, a reminder to watch for this mailing will be placed on the Freedom Bulletin Board, with a link to the same attachments set forth in Option 1 above.

### **New Business**

Information about several virtual programs is being gathered by Elizabeth and Harriet. Not sufficient information to discuss at present.

Shana heard of 3 programs offered by the NH Humanities program. Harriet to follow up.

Virtual Gardening Program offering next week.

Elizabeth is requesting assistance with publicity and program planning.

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**Next FOL Executive Committee Meeting: TBD.**

**Next Friends of the Library Board Meeting: TBD.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Harriet Fishman