



FRIENDS OF THE
WEARE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm.

In attendance: Nancy Zienkiewicz-President, Helen Dutton-Treasurer, Suzanne Belanger-Vice President, Lindsey Hilliard-Secretary (in training), Lea Anderson-Smith-Member at Large, Brenda Cannon, Lisa Johnson, Heleen Kurk

Library Staff: none

Approval of 9-26-23 draft minutes - M/S/P

Reports:

President

Nancy thanked the Board for their support throughout the year. Library Trustees are currently vetting fundraising consultants.

Treasurer

YTD income: \$6,266.38; budget \$5050. YTD expense: \$4,061.92; budget \$4,755.

November income: \$100 from Above and Beyond, \$10 from membership dues, \$250 from Rotary Grant. Expenditure \$400 for telescope.

Announcements

- Aroostine's last day was November 14. Her replacement, Donna, has started.
- Sharon Czarnecki from Weare in the World newsletter asked Dianne Hathaway to please share this: "Thank the Friends of the Library for all they do for the town. I always enjoy putting in the updates from Squam Lakes Natural Science Center knowing we have a pass for it at the Library."

Election of Officers

Nancy requested nominations from the floor; there were none. A vote was taken on the current slate = Nancy Zienkiewicz-President, Suzanne Belanger-Vice President, Helen Dutton-Treasurer, Lindsey Hilliard-Secretary, Lea Anderson-Smith-Member at large). **M/S/P**

Review of 2024 Budget

Total Income = \$5,600. Silent Auction is the major fund raiser.

Total Expenses = \$5,535. Added money for Groups Sponsored, Printing/Postage, Fundraiser Expenses. Separate line items from past years (Books for Babies, Children, Adult, Summer

Programs) were combined into Children Programs and Adult Programs. Library staff determine what they wish to request from the FOWPL fund. Teens (Young Adults) are included in Children.
M/S/P

Old Business:

1. **Membership, Above & Beyond Updates.** Total members: 29, 2 new. \$1,961 total in Above & Beyond donations, \$100 in November.
2. **Rotary Grant Update.** We were awarded \$250 out of the \$575 requested for STEM kits. The Library also received a grant.
3. **Events**
 - a. Children's Christmas Party - Weare Historical Society plans, on Sunday afternoon December 3rd at WMS. The library is also a sponsor. The Friends have not donated this year, aren't involved.
4. **Casino donations to non-profits.** Report from Suzanne and Helen: There are 14 casinos in state. Each must give a portion of the proceeds to non-profits. If chosen by casino, you are assigned 7 days at casino which you are given a cut of the profits made that week. Was noted that the casinos usually choose non-profits that are geographically close. Draft Kings and Filotimo are the best candidates overall (due to traffic flow), located in Manchester. Suzanne mentioned it might be possible to deny the casinos going after patrons mailing lists. FOTWL meet all criteria for eligibility for casino donations. Floated the idea to also apply to Nashua and Concord. Discussed whether we should apply to all 14 casinos regardless of location. Brenda mentioned that there could be a limit to the amount of funds we can receive, Helen will research this.
5. **Telescope Update.** The telescope was delivered the first week of November. Library staff received training. The telescope is now available for check out. We would like to see a report on usage to include monthly total of times checked out, number of unique families using. Suzanne and Lea will develop 2-4 questions for a survey to be completed after use. Suzanne will then follow up with Clay.
6. **Library Wish List.** Currently not reviewing library wish list. Wish list needs to align extras for the library that cannot come out of operating budget or Library foundation.

Library Updates: no report

New Business:

1. There is a need for more adult/teen programs, would like more focus for these groups.
2. Possible fundraisers:
 - a. GivingTuesday.org, they price match donations. Or possibly make our own form of Giving Tuesday to (possibly) avoid patrons having to give their personal information, thus not being hounded for future donations by the website.
 - b. NH Gives, www.nhgives.org; hosted by the NH Center for Nonprofits in June.

3. 2024 Calendar of Events

- a. 1st meeting of year, Jan. 23, 2024 - Approved for hybrid virtual/in-person.
 - b. Pi Day – connect with Weare Democrats about their pie and penny sale @ town hall. Nancy will follow up with Debbie. Need to get ideas ready for presentation at January meeting. Lisa volunteered to be on Pi Day committee.
 - c. Library Week Gala – More casual name needed. Interested in speaker / scavenger hunt, get people looking around in the library.
 - d. Speaker programs include: (1) NH Humanities – Many topics to choose from; geared to adults. These talks are free to the public, so we can advertise in different towns. (2) UNH Cooperative Extension – Focus on agriculture, wildlife. These are family friendly. Maybe town hall would be available for these talks, as there is more space. Check with Sherry Burdick on the topics, attendance of similar talks in the past.
 - e. No date yet for Weare Patriotic Celebration. *(Update on 12/31/2023, Weare Patriotic Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 22, 224.)*
 - f. No Old Home Day in 2024. Weare Historical Society runs this every other year.
4. Bulletin board: need an upkeep schedule. Mention bulletin board in Weare in the World.
5. Communication/Marketing. We need to increase our membership, particularly those who are willing to give their time and assist with events, other activities.
- a. Brochure update. Lindsey to finish by end of January.
 - b. Maybe a logo.
 - c. Create fliers for bulletin boards around town with Friends information.
 - d. Explore the possibility of getting out info into school flier emails.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm

No December meeting.

Next meeting: January 23, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. - hybrid – virtual + in person, Sawyer Room

Action	Who	By When
WITW post	Dianne	ongoing
Updating brochure	Lindsey	January meeting
Contact for Weare Democrats	Nancy, Lisa	asap
Telescope use survey	Suzanne & Lea	12/31/2023
Past NH Humanities presentations	Nancy	January meeting
Casino donations –research limits on amount we can receive	Helen	January meeting
Little Library	Lindsey	Oct-Dec 2023
Little Library	Brenda	Jan-March 2024
Little Library	Nancy	April-June 2024