



10 Community Way
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Minutes of Sept 18, 2018

Present:

Susan Bell, Anne Burton, Patrick Cronin, Jill Dugas Hughes, Dinah Farrington, Karen Foster, Tricia Ferguson, Betty Giugno, Tom Grant, Mari Harris, Judith Maguire, Janet Malecki, Joan Mason, Linda Murphy, Michael Poost, Liz Reyner, Kate Hafner

Minutes:

Minutes of the June 18 regular meeting were approved unanimously, with Michael Poost moving and Tricia Ferguson seconding.

Treasurer's Report:

Janet Malecki submitted her first treasurer's report. The balance as of September 18, 2018 is \$35,819.27 The report was approved unanimously, with Tom Grant moving and Karen Foster seconding.

Janet had a few suggestions to make. One was the need for replacement of the current Friends computer, on which we use QuickBooks for accounting and Microsoft Access for database. No attempts to update/repair it are working. Pat wants to look at the current computer to see if anything can be done to resuscitate it. Jill has volunteered the library to research and purchase a new computer at a cost of up to \$1,000 that will be compatible with the library systems. If the cost will be more, (no more than \$2000) an e-mail asking for authorization will be circulated to the officers. Liz Reyner moved and Tom Grant seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Also Janet requested that formal purchase requests be filed for reimbursement and handed out a sample proposed form.

Membership/Database:

We currently have 326 household memberships this year, with 265 renewals from last year, 24 renewing from previous years and 48 new members.

Database:

Pat Cronin is still working on an online database. He has been working on github.com which tests source code. It's a work in progress

Book Sales:

We had a bounced check for \$154 from the last book sale; no amount of research has managed to find the person who gave it to us.

We are fairly well set up for the Children's Festival. The Adult Sale Sign Up genius invitations will be going out in early October with set up starting on Oct 18 and sale starting at 5 PM Oct 25 and ending with the bag sale on Oct 28.

The library asked for a grant of \$1,283.80 for the Children's Festival for TOTS the Clown, JoJo's Fabulous Faces and the Bounce Arounds. The grant was approved unanimously, with Pat Cronin moving and Anne Burton seconding.

Advocacy/Membership Committee:

Anne Burton organized the phone calls to get out the vote for the library budget and trustee election. 291 people voted out of 10,335 who could have voted. The library sent out blast emails in the days before the election. The budget passed 241 to 50; Lynne Oudekerk received 200 votes and Philip Vecchio, Jr. received 74 votes. Discussions about how to increase the voting turnout found no solution; we'd like a more successful way to communicate---texting was suggested but we don't have cellphone numbers. We'll keep doing what we're doing for now.

The first Meet the Author was well attended by over 50 people. It was suggested that we have another one and some authors suggested were Wanda Fisher, Al Roker and John Gray. Judith and Tricia said they'd be willing to help

Friends News:

The Library has been asked to be pilot library for the NYLA Friends of Libraries Section "Becoming a Library Champion" program. The pilot program is being developed to increase statewide library advocacy efforts and would include encouraging library users to sign up on NYLA's advocacy page to receive such information by email. They are also developing a toolkit for libraries to use for this program, and would look to the Friends to set up information tables a few times a year to promote it. Jean Sheviak will have more information at the November meeting.

It was decided that we should send up to three officers or committee chairs to the NYLA annual conference, which is to be held in Rochester this year; topics of interest to the Friends will be discussed on November 9 and 10. A motion was introduced to reimburse them for registration, conference costs, related travel expenses, lodging and per diem costs. Liz Reyner moved and Tricia Ferguson seconded. It was unanimously passed. People who go would report back to the Friend at the next meeting.

Liz is researching a debit card tied to our account with the card being given to people purchasing things for the Friends who file a purchase request before the purchase so that the card can be loaded with the amount to be spent while using the sales tax exemption form. Currently, if you use your own funds, you cannot use the exemption form and cannot be reimbursed for taxes.

The meeting ran overtime and so discussion of the by-law amendments is postponed to the next meeting.

Member Comments/Questions

Joan Mason suggested that we consider selling any posters we use to publicize events---possibly after framing them. We are trying to think of what posters would be appropriate; it sounds like something to explore.

Library news:

Jill Dugas Hughes presented a Grant Progress Report. The Friends gave the library \$47,036 and there is \$27,078.41 remaining.

The Upper Hudson Library System is sponsoring an Expedition to visit all 36 Upper Hudson libraries. There will be prizes; you can pick up maps at the circulation desk. Friends officers and chairs can sign up for a friendly competition to win points and prizes. There is a display board in the hallway across from the mailboxes.

The Great American Read will be from Sept 6-Oct 29. There are 10 books to vote on at the library, and a finale party/book discussion of the winning book will be held on October 29.

The Volunteer Appreciation Reception will be held on Friday, November 2 from 6-9 pm at the Library.

The Library will once again participate in a fundraiser at Barnes & Nobles in Colonie Center on November 18, 2018. Anyone who makes a purchase in the store and mentions the East Greenbush Community Library – the Library gets a 15-20% donation from those sales, to support children’s programs. Not just limited to books – Barnes & Nobles sells greeting cards, music, movies and more, plus purchases at the Café count too. The Friends are encouraged to set up a free gift-wrapping table to promote interest in the Friends and also to ask for donations for the Library in exchange for gift wrapping. There is a related fundraiser to sell cheese cakes from the Cheesecake Factory. See Jill for more information.

The Library received a construction grant in the amount of \$47,414 to fund Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency Heat Pump Project (which included funds to provide electrical service to the Friends shed.)

Library usage was up 2% over the previous summer. The Hot off the Press book collection appears to be gaining in popularity.

Many other things have been happening, including Summer Reading Programs, a Read-it-Forward program, an increase in the Juvenile Popular books collection, a Summer Music Series, outreach bins in various dental and doctors offices in town, and the Farmers Market.

There are 5 new Museum Passes: the Empire State Aerosciences Museum, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Saratoga Automobile Museum, Springfield Museums (Dr. Seuss) and The Wild Center.

Next Friends Regular Meeting: November 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM

(moved to coincide with the Board of Trustees meeting and to avoid the week of Thanksgiving)

Submitted by Kate Hafner