

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

Meeting Minutes for meeting held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Children's Room craft area

Present: Martha Walsh, Jenny Medlock, Lindsey Humes, Pam Hagan, Sarah James, Evelyn Kelso, Hope Godino, Mia Jacobson, Ute Tellini, Roy Tellini

1. Introductory Business: We approved the minutes of the June 11, 2024 minutes with one spelling correction. We welcomed new attendee Mia, and Martha noted that three others had indicated interest in membership and signed up for our mailing list.

## 2. Ongoing Projects:

Charitable Gaming: We received \$16,296.74 from Oceanfront Gaming. This represents 10% of their proceeds on our 5 assigned days in June. We are very appreciative of the support! We have another 5 days assigned in December. We expect the amount from the December days will be smaller, as the facility is located at Hampton Beach which sees less traffic in the winter. Martha will contact Susan Feltus about re-applying to be a charitable gaming donation recipient in 2025.

Cribbage: The summer sessions had good attendance, providing a nice social experience for all involved. The next session is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>, which happens to be the same day as the Librarians' Craft Fair (see below). Martha will contact the cribbage group to see if they want to move their session to a different day or remain scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup>. Hope assures us there is room for all the activities to go on at once.

Founders' Park Gardens: The town dug out the silt from the rain garden and it is draining nicely. The garden under the sculpture looks fine with minimal maintenance. More gardening volunteers are always appreciated. **Please respond to this email if you'd like to be added to the list of interested gardeners.**

Smaller Projects: The teen room always appreciates donations of school supplies and commercially packaged, individual size, non-sugary snacks. They can be left at the adult circulation desk any time. Thanks to all donors!

## 3. Scheduled Projects:

Librarians' Craft Fair: The craft fair is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 10-3. As at past craft fairs the Friends will run a penny sale styled raffle of items donated by the 30 participating crafters. This is a fun event that brings a lot of new people into the library. We've done it several times now and have streamlined the process to minimize the work. Sarah will work on updating the instructions in the binder so that everyone involved can easily know what to do. Martha has obtained the necessary Raffle permit from the Town of Exeter for this event. **We have the basic shifts covered but still need volunteers to help run the raffle. Please respond to this email if you have a few hours free on the 14<sup>th</sup> and can join us.**

Idea-Sharing Gathering with Other Local Library Friends Groups: Lindsey, together with Ute, Pam and Martha, have done a tremendous amount of work organizing this event, scheduled for 3-5 pm on Thursday, October 10, 2024 in the Library's mezzanine conference room. They have reached out to every library in Rockingham County, inviting their Friends group to a meet-up with a focus on idea

sharing and mutual support. Response has been good so far and additional attempts to reach out are planned.

This event offers many volunteer opportunities, both on the day and beforehand. We discussed the many items that would need to be donated. It looks like the largest remaining needs are snacks to serve during the event. **Please consider donating a baked good or finger food for this event on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Items can be brought to the library any time on the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> and left at the circulation desk. Please respond to this email if you'd like to volunteer in other ways and if you plan to attend.**

OTTO Pizza Hilary is working with OTTO pizza to schedule a fund raising event. This can also be a social event for the friends if we can plan a time to meet and enjoy pizza on the fund-raising night. OTTO holds these on Mondays and the last event raised \$432 for our treasury.

#### 4. Completed Projects:

Independence Festival: Our booth with library information and the headband craft was well received. We simplified the craft this year, which our volunteers appreciated. We did not require donations but received \$17.

Funding for Summer Programs: We funded 4 programs at the library over the summer, two in the adult area and two geared towards families. All were well attended. The library staff appreciates our support.

#### 5. Library Needs:

Plumbing Issue: The library is experiencing a major plumbing issue. The building has settled since it was built in the 1980's, which depresses the lower story toilet drainage pipe to a level below the connection to the town's sewer pipe. As a result sewage from the lower story toilets sometimes backs up instead of flowing out. The fix involves digging up the Children's Room floor, elevating the pipe and placing support underneath the pipe so that it does not sag down again.

The town has helped clarify the problem but has not allotted funds to make the repair. Hope asked if the friends could help fund the repair, estimated to cost \$16,000 to \$20,000, so that she does not have to divert funds from other areas of the library budget. We approved support of up to \$20,000. Thank you Oceanfront Gaming!

The repairs will probably be done in the spring of 2025.

#### 6. Financial Issues:

Treasurer's Report: See below.

Misc.: Right now our funds are stored in a checking account with no interest. We discussed meeting with a representative from Edward Jones Company, which the library uses to manage its funds, to get information on other savings vehicles that would generate more money. Martha will begin work on this and would like some help. **Please respond to this email if you are interested in helping Martha explore our saving options.**

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Children's Room craft area.

## **Treasurer's Report for June and July**

Balance on May 31, 2024 = **\$6,898.26**

### Expenses

May, 2024 Amare Cantare Music \$250

June, 2024 Poor Howard Music \$250

June 2024 Mr. Aaron Magic Show \$435.

Total Expenses for May and June \$ 935.00

### Receipts

June – None

July –

Donations \$210

Cash- American Independence Festival \$17

Oceanfront Gaming \$16,296.74

Total Receipts for June and July = \$16,523.74

**Balance July 31 \$22,487.00**

NOTE: A check for \$281.57 for the Center For Wildlife Children's Program cleared on August 22, 2024

Balance as of August 2 = \$22,205.43