

Friends of the East Kingston Public Library

Minutes of the March 11, 2021

Zoom Virtual 2021 Annual Meeting

Call to Order and Commentary:

The meeting was called to order by the Treasurer at 7:00pm. The following members of the Board of Management were present:

- Sherry Castle, Treasurer
- Sharman Cohen, Secretary
- Carol Powers, UBS Director

Friends Members, Trustees and Library Personnel in attendance:

- Kim Pirger
- Cara Gray
- Aine Cronin
- Stacey Friedman
- Zoe Sucu, Library Assistant
- Tracy Waldron, Library Director
- Sarah Courchesne, Trustee
- Robert Minicucci, Trustee
- Laura Branting, Trustee
- Conrad Moses, Trustee

A quorum was established for this meeting.

Welcome to our newest member; Cara Gray.

Preview of Agenda reviewed (was sent to all members one month ago).

Today's Goal: Plan 2021 Activities with an emphasis on volunteer participation, finding directors to coordinate events and to alleviate Library staff from assisting us monthly where we should be assisting them.

Friends' Overview :

Review of our mission statement and how we support the Library (purchasing many wish list items and Museum Passes).

Fundraising:

Current and ongoing:

Membership dues/donations - sent out in October for next year, currently 104 members.

Used Book Store – sending out a flyer every other month of special deals

Charitable Gaming - 2 of 10 given dates have been held

Amazon Smile – ongoing with customers choosing the Friends at time of online purchase.

FoEKPL Fundraiser Director position open

Plans for 2021:

Canvas Book Bags: Showed the purchased design but decided to hold off on *pricing and where to sell it until our next open meeting on April 22nd.*

Quilt Raffle: Showed 2 items for raffle, wall hanging or bed quilt to be completed by June and created by Diane Sheckells. Vote today was 9 to 4 in favor of the wall hanging. *Ticket pricing, where to display and sell tickets at next open meeting on April 22nd.*

Restaurant Benefit Night: options discussed – Flatbread Pizza, Panera Bread and Community Oven. Still getting information but consensus was to only do one benefit night annually. Also suggested to reach out to the Mexican restaurant in EK. *To be reviewed at our next meeting on April 22nd with more information.*

Conrad brought up an idea for fundraising. Lawn campaign signs (We are proud supporters of the EK Public Library) that are purchased for under \$10 and sold for \$10 or whatever donation the supporters cared to give. It has proven to be a great fundraiser.

Sarah Courchesne brought to our attention a fundraiser the trustees are hoping we can help with. Within 4 years the Trustees will be confronted with purchasing the solar panels at the Library. There is a small section of panels which are owned by the Library. The cost is \$40,000. If not purchased the electric bill (which is currently billed at a reduced cost) will spike considerably. The Trustees cannot fund raise but can rely on the Friends group to help with fund raising and of course they can accept donations. We have asked for more information.

Community Liason Events: all events held at the Library for all EK residents

Santa at the Library: in December, one day with Santa actor, food

Winterfest: in February, one day with carriage rides, live music, food, bonfire

Scarecrow contest: in October, discussion on at the Library or around town. Prize for best scarecrow, themed- book character or author.

Plant, Book & Bake Sale: in June, used books and themed baked goods (blueberry?) discussion on doing 2 book sales but decided to only hold one. Plants we might not have enough and if so should sell them in May.

Book of the Month Club: monthly. Mailing or delivering our discarded books to those whom sign up. All age groups can participate. The Library staff will coordinate this.

After discussion decided to plan 3 events: The Book & Bake Sale in June, The Scarecrow Contest held at the Library in October and the Winterfest in February. We will revisit Santa at the Library during the summer after Covid limitations have been lifted. If we have volunteers to run these, more can be added. *Suggestion to send out a mailchimp flyer that Robert M will create asking for volunteers and directors. This flyer will also go on our webpage. In addition, we will add the specific volunteer events to the membership drive flyer.*

President Nomination:

Lisanne Cozart has stepped down as our President. Thank you for your service Lisanne.

Aine Cronin was nominated by Tom Cronin and seconded by Sharman Cohen for the position of President of the Friends of the EKPL. Congratulations Aine.

Dates for upcoming meetings: these will be posted on our website.

April 22, 2021 at 7pm (virtual) Q2 Meeting

July 22, 2021 at 7pm (virtual) Q3 Meeting

Oct 21, 2021 at 7pm (virtual) Q4 Meeting

Action items:

Canvas Book Bags pricing and where to sell it to be discussed on April 22nd.

Quilt Raffle Ticket pricing where to display and sell tickets on April 22nd.

Restaurant Benefit Night to be reviewed at our next meeting on April 22nd with more information.

Robert M will create a flyer asking for volunteers and directors for specific community events to be put on our webpage and sent via mailchimp.

We will add the specific volunteer events to the membership drive flyer next year.

Items to place on the April Agenda (not covered during our March meeting but on the agenda)

Membership: Perks and Leveling

Board Member responsibilities: drafted unofficial descriptions

Public Awareness (communication): current state and plans for 2021

The virtual annual meeting of the Friends was adjourned at 8:30pm, motioned by Sherry Castle, seconded by Carol Powers.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharman H Cohen

Secretary