

Friends of the East Kingston Public Library

Minutes of the July 22, 2021 open board meeting

Call to Order and Commentary:

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

- Sherry Castle, Treasurer
- Sharman Cohen, Secretary
- Carol Powers, UBS Director
- Áine Cronin, President (arrived later in the evening)

Friends Members, and Library Personnel in attendance:

- Julie Clark
- Jeanne Furfari
- Cara Gray
- Robert Minicucci, Trustee
- Tracy Waldron, Library Director
- Zoe Sucu, Library Assistant

A quorum was established for this meeting.

The Secretary turned the running of the meeting over to the Treasurer.

Regular Reports:

The minutes of the 4-29-2021 open board meeting were approved as amended (under Old Business, Restaurant Charity Night, Sherry has the banner): by Carol Powers and seconded by Sherry Castle.

The Q1 Treasurers report was posted on our webpage to review before the meeting and highlights reviewed by Sherry. We have acquired \$1800.00 in additional funds. Charitable gaming is 82% to target, UBS 70% to target, Membership drive will start again in October/November, Library Support is 58% to target and our expenses are 82% to target. The Wowbrary we have not received a bill for to date. This report was accepted by Carol Powers and seconded by Julie Clark as presented.

Used Book Store Report was presented by Carol Powers. The UBS has found their niche with a team of dedicated volunteers. We have acquired a lot of donations as people have cleaned out their homes this last year. Going forward all donations and discards at the library will be going to the UBS. Suggested that the UBS consider adding hours/days if possible. Will let the year play out to see how it goes. \$80 was made at UBS the day of our Book/Bake sale.

Library update: Tracy thanked us for the tents. Have been used twice since the bake/book sale. Summer reading had a great turnout even thou it was slower then pre Covid. Gift cards were printed and given to participants for the UBS.

Old Business:

Book Bags: The bags will be sold for \$5 each (cost is \$5.25 each). They are currently on display at the library and the UBS. We have sold half of our inventory.

Book/Bake Sale: \$585 in books and baked goods was sold in 4 hours! Last time (2019) we made \$200. All books were donated at the end of the sale. Going forward the plan is not to house any books in the shed. All discards will go to the pound school. The library orders 150-175 books/month. Advertising made this successful. The date and time need to be clear as some showed up the day before. Thank you Aine for handling the advertising.

Quilt Raffle: The Grumpy Whale Designed by Diane Sheckells was presented tonight. Beautiful! Diane even added a matching pillow. Plan to display at elections, UBS, pancake breakfast at the firehouse, and charity restaurant night. Ticket prices: \$1 for one, \$5 for 6 tickets. Will start displaying on August 1st. We need volunteers to sit with the quilt and collect raffle tickets. Nancy Parker was mentioned as a possibility. The raffle will go till the end of the year (not clear at the meeting the actual end date).

Restaurant Charity Night: Sharman has filled out the application form for a charity night in September or October at Flatbread Pizza in Amesbury. To date have not heard anything from Flatbread. *Sharman will reach out to them for an answer. Aine will also go to Jalisco to see if they would be interested as a backup.*

Weatherwane: Sharman touched base with Jeff Whittum (can be seen in our email). He is currently working on 6 commissioned pieces; ours is one. She reminded him that as long as it is done before the first snow (getting up on the roof can be tricky).

Museum Passes: The Museum of Fine Arts and The Museum of Science made good on last year passes. The Fells was not used enough and the NH State Park Pass was too much to print out and not a great savings so both were not renewed. Suggested to look into St Guardens and Woodmens.

New Business:

Meeting with the Trustees: Suggested at the last Trustee meeting, maybe a brunch. Closed meeting is a possibility. More discussion on 7/26 with the Trustees.

UBS expenses: *Carol is looking for \$70 to buy a unit to house all of her donated puzzles.* Also funds allocated for Covid Expenses were not depleted so we would like a vote to use \$100 to pay for the flowers and soil for the window boxes we put this year as we had not budgeted for it. Motioned to approve by Sherry Castle and seconded by Julie Clark. Passed.

Library/Friends Technical purchases: In order to hold meetings in the Library we would like to also have the ability to share with all of our friends. 3 options for conference webcams were presented: Meeting Owl, Logitech BCC950, and Nuroun. These are units currently used successfully in other libraries. After much discussion it was unanimously voted to have the *Treasurer purchase the White Owl.*

Charity Gaming: In September we no longer need a volunteer to go to Hampton to sign for our gaming day. We were audited by the Gaming Commission. They questioned if we chose to pay in advance or if it was strongly suggested. We pay in advance as it is one check written. The Treasurer will need a background check annually at a cost of \$48.50. We receive a 30% on our gaming day. We can promote these days but for now our normal notifications seem to be enough.

Library Shelving: Tracy has had one contractor in to quote putting shelves up behind the checkout counter. He was not able to do the job. *Suggested to contact Jamie Cook.*

Johnnen Estate: Nothing has happened to date. Suggested *Sherry reach out to Kerry Marshall* and set up a meeting to clarify where we are. Carol Powers, Tracy Waldron and Robert Minicucci have volunteered to join Sherry. We would like to add a playground to list of items possible with the donation.

Membership: one new membership came in tonight. Shelby Stabile. Welcome.

The open board meeting of the Friends was adjourned at 8:50pm, motioned by Sherry Castle seconded by Carol Powers.

Recap:

Sharman will reach out to Flatbread Pizza as to the status of our application.

Aine will reach out to Jalisco to see if they are interested in a charity night.

Carol and Sherry will purchase a puzzle unit for UBS.

Sherry will purchase a "White Owl" to be used for video conferencing our meeting.

Tracy will contact Jamie Cook regarding shelving at the Library.

Sherry will set up a meeting with Kerry Marshall regarding the Johnnen Estate.

Next meeting will be October 28, 2021 at 7pm in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharman H Cohen

Secretary