

Friends of the East Kingston Public Library

Minutes of the October 28, 2021 open board meeting

Call to Order and Commentary:

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:05pm. The following members of the Board of Management were present:

- Sherry Castle, Treasurer
- Carol Powers, UBS Director
- Áine Cronin, President

Friends Members, and Library Personnel in attendance:

- Julie Clark
- Jeanne Furfari
- Conrad Moses
- 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 7-22-2021 open board meeting was approved as amended by Carol Powers and seconded by Jeanne Furfari.

The Q3 Treasurers report was posted on our webpage to review before the meeting and highlights reviewed by Sherry. Sherry noted the dues were only at 6% for the year, which is normal as the Friends' membership drive kicks off in November. The Friends received a donation of \$25,000 from the Estate of Carl **Johnnen**, which has put us at 1,600% of our budget. Charitable gaming has done eight of ten days, and the UBS is ahead of projections. Total income to date is over \$42,000, while target is below \$20,000. Library items and equipment to be discussed. Everything on target for administrative support. To date, the FoEKPL have purchased all of the Library's request except for the computer. Originally anticipated to be \$349 but cannot find anything for that. Vote to increase equipment budget by another \$350 for the library computer – vote accepted. Next gaming dates are November 10th & 11th. Per Sherry – great news, no one must go into the casino to sign affidavit anymore. Question on when FoEKPL deposited Carl Johnnen's funds – deposited on September 19th. This report was accepted by Áine Cronin and seconded by Carol Powers.

Used Book Store Report was presented by Carol Powers. The UBS had a large sale in September – all was 50% off and a big success. The passageway to the cellar has been cleaned out and will be used as storage for books. Specials each month seem to work. Need to find a way to engage more kids. 3 recent EKES teachers have retired and left all of their books. Jean Germain and her sister spend time off hours organizing and cleaning and the group is grateful for that. Specials will be held in November and

December, and the UBS will be closed over the holidays. Carol mentioned she is happy and willing to cover smaller expenses as a community service.

Library update: Tracy mentioned the Halloween party on the upcoming Saturday will now be a drive by from 1pm – 3pm due to inclement weather. Zoe to keep the Friends updated on if they are OK on the budget. Two new guinea pigs have been added – Sherlock & Watson.

Old Business:

Quilt Raffle: Discussion on how to engage the community on this – currently hanging at the library. Before, we had a lot of engagement at local elections. Zoe will make a poster for the raffle and put it up at the UBS with raffle bin.

Weathervane: Áine will touch base with Jeff Whittum on status of weathervane.

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 more than half of our inventory.

Crafts: Historically the EKPL has done a craft program each year. Carol asked if we will be doing one this year. Per Tracy, have not been doing any in person programming except for Book Club as its so small, and there are no plans to do any the remainder of this year.

New Business:

Friends Membership Levels: Discussion of current level and should we make an additional one. If there is to be another level, should have additional perks. Additional membership levels will be discussed for next year. Sherry offered to investigate FoEKPL bookmarks. Each Friends member would receive one. Agreement on adding another box for “additional donation” to the Friends’ membership drive letter. Finally, there was a discussion on mailing logistics for the annual member drive. Áine will investigate bulk mailing via USPS and the price and if a permit is needed for bulk nonprofit mailing.

UBS Update: First committee is going to put a warrant article out in January – Conrad is drafting. The money is earmarked and unencumbered for asbestos. Currently using a rug to cover missing asbestos tile. Carol proposed an additional \$200 in UBS expenses to cover aforementioned rug, light fixture, mouse traps, etc. Sherry increased amount to \$250; Áine approved, Carol seconded. Gifts to volunteers at holiday time. Discussion of handyman – town has mentioned hiring one however this has not yet been approved.

Annual Elections: These will be held at the January 2022 meeting. Current vacancies of Secretary, Fundraising Director, and Social Media Director were discussed. Also discussed was redoing the Friends bylaws for 2022. FoEKPL needs two new officers for January; Carol, Sherry, and Áine stated their intention to rerun for their positions.

Meeting dates for 2022 were confirmed:

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

Next meeting will be Thursday January 20th, 2022 at 7pm in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Áine O. Cronin, President, Friends of EKPL