

## Meeting Minutes, Friends of the Exeter Public Library

Held 11/14/23, 6:30 pm, ground floor of the library

Present: Lorraine Jurdi, Pam Hagan, Sarah James, Hilary Ireland, Monique Lowd, Martha Walsh, Susan Feltus, Ute Tellini, Evelyn Kelso, Jenny Medlock, Barbara Young, Hope Godino

The minutes and treasurer's report from the last meeting, held on October 10, 2023, were reviewed and approved without changes

### Fundraising:

Craft Fair recap: We made \$400 at the library craft sale raffle. Overall, we thought it went well but that we could have benefited from some more organization and advanced planning. Susan has compiled some notes to help make this easier; she has put it in our master binder. Assistant library director Julia is aware of some of the issues and will work on this with us for the next craft fair, which she expects will take place in spring, 2024.

Casino Project: Martha reviewed the state charitable gaming program. She explained her research on what the East Kingston and Hampton Falls library friends groups have done with the money they have received from this program, including funding library programs and museum passes. Roy submitted our application to be a recipient of charitable gaming funds by mail on October 19th and we are waiting to hear back as to whether it was approved for 2024. Hilary will keep tabs on this.

Otto's Pizza: Hilary has been in contact with Otto's. All of their "community partner" slots have been filled for the rest of 2023. We strategized that a date in April might be a good time to maximize restaurant traffic and Hilary will contact Otto's to see if she can get us on their schedule for April 8th or 15th.

Hope does not have any requests right now, but will be planning future library programs for both children and adults which she would like us to fund. She may also look into bringing in an author to speak.

### Upcoming Events:

Festival of Trees: Our tree committee has been busy making decorations and collecting items for our tree. Our members have very generously donated a large number of items along the theme of "Banned and Challenged Books", including books, puzzles, a t-shirt, tote bags and other items. Thank you to all our donors !!! Tree decorating day is Tuesday, November 28th. Sarah and Hilary will get to Town Hall at 8 am to choose an appropriately sized tree for us to decorate. The full tree committee will gather at 10 am for the decorating process. We can always use more helpers to decorate, so please come down if you are available!

All 50 trees will be available for viewing online and at Town Hall on Wednesday, November 29th from 11 am to 4 pm and Thursday, November 30th from 11 am to 8 pm. Silent auction style bidding will be online and winners must pick up their trees the next day by noon. Trees can also be delivered within the Exeter area for an additional fee.

The Community Children's Fund also makes money by having a bake sale during the festival and will be accepting donations at the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 28th from 8 am to 7 pm. To easily keep pricing uniform all donations should be sets of two cookies or bars in a clear plastic bag. It is helpful if the donor notes whether or not the items contain nuts. Please consider stopping by with a baked good donation to help this worthy cause that provides warm clothing and bedding to area children. More information on the festival can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.exeterareacharitablefoundation.org/festivaloftrees>

<https://www.exeternh.gov/recreation/2023-holiday-block-party>

Cribbage: The next session is scheduled for Saturday morning, November 18th. Players of all ages and abilities are welcome!

**Old Business:**

Mail: Martha and Susan will share the duty of checking the Friends' mail pocket at the library

Past donations: The library gaming groups (two types of bridge, two types of mah jong and cribbage) continue to enjoy using the card tables purchased for the library by the Friends. The teen adulting class for which the Friends donated supplies is up and running smoothly.

**New Business:**

Secretary scheduling conflict: Our secretary, Courtney Marshall, has started teaching a class that conflicts with our meeting time. She is not sure how long this will continue. She plans to continue as secretary and will fulfill all the secretary's duties including (among other things) managing the email list and writing "Thank You" notes to donors. We will need a volunteer to take minutes at the meetings. Sarah volunteered to take the minutes tonight and will forward them to Martha and Susan for publishing. If this becomes a long term issue we may decide to discuss having the meetings on a different day of the week.

We decided that once the Festival of Trees is over we do not have any pressing business and so will NOT meet in December. The next Friends meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 pm in the library.

Financial Report for October, 2023, submitted by treasurer Roy Tellini:

September 30, 2023 opening bank account balance: \$3558.52

Receipts:

library craft fair raffle: \$400

donation from Philip and Jane Mallinson: \$500

Expenses:

none

October 31, 2023 closing bank account balance: \$4458.52

Outstanding expenses:

check #124, written 10/19/2023 for \$50 to NH Lottery Commission for our charitable gaming application, not yet cashed