

Meeting Minutes - Friends of the Exeter Public Library, 2/14/23



Library Friend

Sat, Feb 18, 10:38
AM (3 days ago)

to Sarah, bcc: me

Present: Jenny Medlock (Board of Trustees liaison), Dottie Cieslewicz, Carla Tishler, hilary ireland, Barbara Young, Sarah James, Kathy Boudreau, Evelyn Kelso

1. Financial report from Dottie:

On 1/1/2023, the bank account opening balance was \$2426.85

Receipts: Donation \$50.00

NH Charitable Foundation Grant \$300.00

Expenses: Susan Scales Library Support – Teen Room couch \$392.99

On 12/31/2022, the bank account closing balance was \$2383.86

Anticipated expense: none

2. Cribbage Saturdays: Kathy reported that attendance is steady, often a mixture of regulars and new people. The next cribbage Saturday will be on 3/11/23 at 10 am in the library.

3. Sea Dog fundraiser: Our fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th at Sea Dog Brewery in Exeter ! Once again they will brew a bespoke beer for us and give us a portion of the proceeds from selling it. They will also give us a percentage of their other sales that night and we will earn additional money from raffle tickets. Hope has started setting aside books so we can offer one (or more) book baskets as raffle items. Other folks are beginning to collect items to raffle as well. Carla will contact Lindt about making a donation and will work on publicity, including posting the event at Sea Dog, on the town Facebook page and on Next Door. Sarah will contact May Delaney to see if she can post it on the Exeter beer lover's Facebook page and will try to get it listed in the Exeter Newsletter. Additional things we need: donated items from local merchants, large-ish baskets to stuff with items to raffle and additional things to raffle. We discussed putting together baskets with various themes including kitchen gadgets, Red Sox stuff and kids stuff. Do you have a new or gently used item to donate or can you ask a local merchant for one? If so, please reply to this email. We are a 501(c)3 organization and are happy to provide receipts for all donations.

4. Fundraising via charitable gaming: Carla has started investigating our group becoming a designated charity recipient of funds from The Brook casino. So far it looks like there is a fair amount of paperwork involved and several fees we would need to pay. We decided to not move forward on this until she has made some more inquiries. In the meantime Kathy will get information on a similar program offered

through the New Hampshire Lottery Commission. We are hoping it is a less complicated program that does not involve fees we are not guaranteed to recoup.

5. Library trustee elections: 4 new trustees will be elected at the town of Exeter elections in March. Both Sarah and Kathy are running. If elected they would have to stand down as officers of the Friends group. Are you interested in becoming an officer of the group - if so please reply to this email.

6. Future events and activities:

- The Independence Festival would like to have more events this year that are spread around town rather than focusing everything on the Independence Museum area. We'll start thinking about what our group can offer. the Festival is scheduled for Saturday, July 15th.

- The librarians have proposed having a craft fair in the library in April or May and asked if we would organize it. They think it would be a great way to draw people into the library. Kathy will investigate this further.

- The librarians also proposed drawing people into the library by hosting an event next November to complement the Festival of Trees. One idea was to set up a dozen or so tabletop artificial trees, ask organizations to decorate them, then raffle them off. This would provide an alternative for people who can't have a large or live tree in their home. Prior to the auction the trees could be displayed in the new library area that has lots of windows. This would look stunning, especially at night. Kathy will discuss this idea more with Julia, the assistance library director. Sarah and Hilary will reach out to the committee that plans the Festival of Trees. We would want to be sure we were adding to their event and not competing.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 21st at 6:30 pm in the library (3rd Tuesday instead of 2nd Tuesday, which would conflict with election day)