

Minutes of the Meeting
Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
April 13, 2017

Attendees:

Florian Ptak
Jeanne Bresnehan
Marilyn Manning
Art and Sharon Larsen
Bob Bresnahan
Amy Chin
Ed Jurczyk
Alex Reczkowski
Ross Shuart
Nancy McNabb
Diane Williams
Grace Lanoue

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m. The Minutes of March 9 were approved. Marilyn introduced a guest, Diane Williams, Alex introduced Grace Lanoue, who is an intern shadowing library personnel.

Florian reviewed the treasurer's report. Bob Bresnahan is back from Florida and will resume the treasurer's duties

President's Report:

We received a thank you letter from the Literacy Volunteers of Berkshire County for our \$500 sponsorship of the Links for Literacy.

We received correspondence from the Bidwell House regarding a pass. Bob Bresnahan will do research.

It was voted to join the MA Friends of Library (MFOL). The membership fee is \$30.

Amy remarked that there have been many tee shirt contest applications taken out, but not a lot of submissions. The contest may have to be extended.

Library Director's Report:

Alex announced that on 4/21 and 4/22 (Earth Day, Saturday), there would be a recycling program for printers, monitors, and associated equipment. No TV's will be eligible. There will be no charge.

Good Will is suggesting bi-weekly visits to collect books for pulp instead of every week to cut down on their costs. They would supply "Gaylord Pallets", which contain up to about 3 of the plastic bins.

The estate of Vivien Elmslie has donated a sheep from the "Sheeptacular" exhibit that took place in Pittsfield some years ago. Alex would like a committee formed to display the sheep along with landscaping outside in the garden reading room. Florian suggested that the landscaping project include the entire outside of the Library.

Jacob's Pillow will present programming co-coordinating with the First Friday Artswalk in July. Most of the non-fiction (800 series) on the south side of the Library will be moved to accommodate the program.

Steam kits were presented from 4 to 6 in the auditorium today for early childhood education.

Membership:

Amy remarked that Membership has increased. Carol Maynard, the new chair was absent, so there was no exact figure.

\$100 was appropriated for a Book Memorial in memory of Nan Pearson's father.

Programs:

John Dixon of the Housatonic Valley Association will give a talk about the mill towns on Saturday. On May 2nd there will be a program

educating the library patrons about the new telescope, and weather permitting, go outside. On May 18th, Jessica Ulmer will present a program on “Decluttering”. A yoga program will be starting on the 18th. There will be seven, one-hour sessions in the series.

Book Sale:

Nancy happily reported that the revenue from the book sales has increased greatly. A sample year was: 2009: \$20,800 versus 2016: \$43,800.

After a discussion regarding illegal parking in the library lot, Alex said that Luciano is taking license numbers and reporting them.

Nancy also remarked about the lobby book sales, which are about \$500 a month, which are not included in the regular book sale totals.

Nancy presented the printed “7 Tips for Donating All Books without Being a Jerk”. Amy will arrange to print it and hang it where it can be seen in the library.

Newsletter:

The Newsletter Is at the printer and is being mailed at the end of next week. There will be a notice that those people who would elect to receive the newsletter only by email to please respond. The next newsletter will be in July before the book sale.

Publicity:

James was absent, but we thank him for the reasonable \$150 Eagle bill.

Old Business:

Amy will try again for a press release describing what the library does with the book sale funds. She will speak directly with a journalist. Also, She will try a Letter to the Editor.

The Book Sorter luncheon will be Wed., June 21st at noon.

Jim, Marilyn, Florian and Ed are working on guidelines for programs and a brochure describing Friends' activities, as used in Florida.

Marilyn said that books that had gone through two sales were donated to Berkshire Children and Families, South Congregational Church and Head Start.

Alex offered that if there was clear direction, volunteers from a senior real estate tax work off may be of help in researching records to create a plaque for past presidents.

Florian suggested a "Donate Day" on a Saturday for books from 9 to 12. This has been successful in Arizona.

The meeting closed at 4:30.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 11th, at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan