

**Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
Minutes of the Executive Committee
April 12, 2018**

Attendees:

James Arpante
Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Marilyn Manning
Nancy McNabb
Florian Ptak
Alex Reczkowski
Ed Reilly
Ross Stuart

Amy called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The minutes of March 15 were approved. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Total assets as of March 31 are \$70,244.40.

-

President's Report:

A thank you note was received from the president of the Literacy Volunteers of Berkshire County, thanking us for our sponsorship of the Links for Literacy Mini-Golf Tournament in the amount of \$500.

Also, a thank you note was received from Nancy McNabb in recognition of books given in memory of her mother, Ruth George.

It was voted to co-sponsor a new, one-man play starring Stephen Collins, about Herman Melville at Arrowhead on August 1st, Melville's birthday, in the amount of \$250.

Library Director's Report:

There will be an art rack in the Blake Room to display a rotating art exhibit. Thanks to Marilyn Manning, Amy Chin and Carol Maynard for their help with National Library Week. A consultant is working on lighting for the auditorium.

There will be a new phone system for the library in May, which should eliminate the problem with the voice mail for the Friends.

Membership:

There will be a committee consisting of Sarah Rohrwasser, Carol Maynard, Dawn Durant and Sam Cesario to pursue junior membership in the Friends. It was suggested that the Friends/Library be suggested to teachers whose students have community service assignments. The committee will report back at the June Executive Committee meeting.

There are no membership figures for this month.

Programs:

Marilyn reported that there were 29 people attending Barbara Pastie's, "Shake your Soul" exercise class. There will be an art lesson this evening at 6.

There are 9 more programs scheduled, including “Tea and Chocolate,” with Kim Larkin, on April 28th at 2. There are two programs already added for the Fall.

Book Sale:

Discussion continued regarding space for carts.

400 children’s books left over from the sale were donated to the Berkshire Children and Families and South Congregational Church. Discussion was held regarding donating soft cover books to the jail. Nancy said they are welcome to them if they would send a representative to pick them up. With Amy Chin’s help, books were also donated to the people who supply the “Little Libraries”.

Newsletter:

There was a discussion on the survey contained in the recent newsletter regarding whether patrons would like to receive the newsletter by email, print or both. Right now, we are only sending to active members.

Publicity:

James plans to investigate an assortment of newspapers for ads. Up Country was a very good value, and it appeared the day before the sale. Nancy asked that the 25-cent reference be eliminated, and stress the organization of the sale.

Library Store:

It was decided to offer the kids designed tee shirts for \$7 at the July sale. Amy will investigate book bag designs and reorder. We are down to 31 bags, and these sell fairly well at the book sale.

New Business:

We are looking for a chairperson for the Friends of Libraries Week in the Fall.

Old Business:

We are still looking for a book sale treasurer. Nancy was asked to select someone from her volunteers.

Amy played the clip of the PCTV ad, and Art Larsen was complimented on his presentation.

Florian is still comparing costs for the Friends’ brochure. He will bring in a sample brochure.

The board approved the Chesterwood museum pass for \$250, the USS Slater for \$60, and the five Springfield museums for \$125. Florian will check on the Bidwell House passes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

The next meeting will be May 10th at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan