

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

Executive Committee

Minutes of the Meeting – February 14, 2019

Attendees:

Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Vickie Donahue
Marilyn Manning
Carol Messerschmitt
Nancy McNabb
Florian Ptak

Guest – Helen Busby

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m. and surprised us with delicious Valentine cookies and chocolate! Thanks for your thoughtfulness!!

The minutes of January 10th were approved.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The acting treasurer, Florian Ptak, elaborated on some larger figures in the report. As of January 31, 2019, our assets are \$52,823.47.

President's Report:

There were two thank you notes received, one from Vickie Donahue for a memorial book in her daughter's name, and from the library staff for replacing their coffee maker.

Amy Chin, James Arpante, Alex Reczkowski, and John Niner attended the annual Legislative Breakfast Committee breakfast on Friday, January 25th at Sawyer Library at Williams College. Amy stated that it is very important that we convey to our legislature the need for their monetary support for libraries. The trickle-down effect of Federal tax cuts has caused State money has to be put elsewhere.

A big thank you was conveyed to all who helped free up the garage of book donations.

\$500 was received from a grant from the Jerome R. Zipkin Cultural Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. It was voted to accept this gift and to use this to fund the Friends' brochures that will be generated after the new branding takes effect.

August 1, 2019 is Herman Melville's 200th birthday. There will be a weekend of celebratory events, which will be publicized at a later date. Application is being filed to apply for a Literary Landmark to honor Herman Melville sponsored by the United for Libraries Association.

Library Director:

Since Alex was absent, Amy reviewed his notes:

Alex has Ron's portrait adjustment, to have the hooks replaced, on his to- do list.

The new Library website will appear in the beginning of March. There will be a redesign of the Logo.

A huge thanks to the Friends for support of the new mural in the Children's Library, which is based on a character from one of Ty Allen Jackson's books. Alex commented on how the mural really brightens up the Children's Library.

Alex also offered his thanks for the garage work day.

Membership:

There were 22 renewals, one new, 13 Friends, 6 Family. two supporters, and two patron memberships this month.

Programs:

Marilyn reported that the music for Valentine Day would take place this Saturday afternoon, February 16th, at 2. It was postponed because of the storm.

Also, the Melville Film Fest, also postponed because of the storm, will happen on February 26th, 27th and 28th.

Yoga has been very popular with Amanda Raymond. There have been 21 to 30 people attending. Amanda is unable to continue after the 4-week session, so we will touch base with her in the Fall.

Cinema of Law is coming up, along with "Shake Your Soul".

Book Sale:

Nancy is happy with the new volunteers.

Bernie Scapine will be Book Sale treasurer.

The Board emphasized that a police presence is need on Thursday night.

We need a contact name for Soldier On to enable us to assist customers buying a large quantity of books. We will be phasing out our VHS and cassette collection.

Newsletter:

Materials should be submitted by March 1st. Copy will be sent to the printer by March 9th.

New Business:

\$500 was appropriated for the Links to Literacy golf hole. This will take place March 30th.

National Library Week is April 7th to 13th.

The library needs your messages to our legislators for funding. Share your thoughts at the Circulation Desk, under the theme of "Why You Love Your Library."

Florian reviewed the new museum pass requests.

It was decided to forego the Trustees of the Reservations because they offered only a reduced rate.

Slater Museum passes renewed. It was decided that it was not necessary in the future to vote on passes that have been established. The Slater museum has offered to send a speaker to the Library.

Amy distributed the partial Friends' President List updated by Ross. It was meticulously researched by Ross and very much appreciated. Eventually, it will be digitalized.

The application for the Herman Melville Literary Landmark was discussed and \$800 was approved for a plaque if our application is accepted.

Old Business:

Florian is following up on an organization that picks up extra copies of the same book.

The Friends' Brochure is on hold until the new branding.

The meeting closed at 4:30.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 21st at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan