

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
February 8, 2018

Attendees:

James Arpante
Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Vicki Donahue
Art & Sharon Larsen
Marilyn Manning
Nancy McNabb
Florian Ptak
Alex Reczkowski
Ross Shuart

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m.

Amy introduced Samantha Cesario, the new children's librarian. Samantha detailed a spectrum of children's activities, such as a pajama party, game day, arts and crafts, along with a visit from the governor's wife, accompanied by the Boston Bruins mascot. Please consider bringing a new set of PJ's to donate to the Boston Bruins' Annual PJ Drive. There is a box in the Library to accept donations. The Pajama Drive will run from February 1st to March 15th.

The minutes of January 11, 2018 were approved.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The balance as of 1/31/18 is \$61,251.53.

Library Director's Report:

On Saturday, Feb. 17th, from 10 to 1, there will be a Seed Library Kickoff. Meet with the master gardeners at Hancock Shaker Village and make your own chia pet!

March 2 is "Read Across America Day". Volunteers are needed to read to elementary school students.

June 28th will be Pittsfield Suns Day.

The Book Bike has not arrived yet, but when it does, it will appear this summer on Third Thursdays and Farmer's Markets. Books will be able to be checked out through this bike.

President's Report:

Amy suggested that we award a voucher for the first 20 people who donate pajamas. This would be 20% off a purchase at the March book sale, up to a 25 dollar purchase.

We will be advertising the Berkshire Family History Association speaker Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz, in our Newsletter. She will be presenting her lecture on genealogy on Thursday, May 10th.

We have received an invitation from PCTV to produce a three-minute public service announcement free of charge on March 15th at 7 p.m.

A proposal was discussed on becoming a Literary Landmark City in honor of Herman Melville's 200th birthday next year. The cost would be \$850. and a bronze plaque would be awarded. No decision was made.

Training for the new square reader for use at the Book Sale will take place on Monday, March 5th at 9 a.m. in the auditorium.

Membership Report:

November, 2017: There were 7 new memberships and 15 renewals.

December 2017: There were 2 new memberships and 14 renewals.

January 2018: There were 12 renewals

Programs:

A thank you note was received from Ann Tierney for her \$150 stipend for t knitting instruction.

The two "Very Important Lecture" speakers donated their time so there was no expense incurred. Also, \$70 in books were sold from Paul Rocheleau's talk.

The Berkshire Hills concert was cancelled in January because of bad weather. It will be presented in June

On February 21st, Paul Greene, Margery Dix and David Anderegg will present a musical program. Florian added that the Library's piano is in need of repairs of approximately \$800.

Book Sale:

The dates for the 2019 Book Sale are as follows: March 14th, 15th and 16; July 11th, 12th and 13th and November 7th, 8th and 9th. There was discussion about changing the end of the book sale on Saturday to 3 p.m. It was decided to leave the time at 4. Help is needed at the book sale to help patrons carry books to their cars.

Florian will put the main book sale banner up tomorrow. 50-cent gardening books will be offered on a cart at the sale.

There was discussion on selling valuable donated video games on line. Amy will ask a family friend if he is interested in doing this for us.

Newsletter:

Ross needs input by March 1.

Publicity:

There was conversation about the Up Country magazine ad. Florian will pay the bill and we will be compensated for a wrong date on the ad for the March sale. James also advocated advertising for volunteers in the Senior Center newsletter, using the Friends' website to reply.

New Business:

It was decided to go to Patrick's for the sorters luncheon on Wednesday, April 18th at 12:30. Amy will print an invitation with a tear-off for RSVP. Nancy furnished a list.

The Friends' brochure was tabled until Florian obtains better pricing.

The Golf Hole volunteers will be Marilyn and Jeanne.

Florian has purchased the air purifier for the Friends' Room. He will be on vacation for 3 weeks from Feb. 18th. Marilyn Manning will keep the checkbook.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 15th, at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan

