

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
Minutes of the Meeting
September 13, 2018

Attendees:

James Arpante
Bob Bresnahan
Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Vicki Donahue
Nancy McNabb
Marilyn Manning
Ed Reilly

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m. and Florian introduced Carol Messerschmitt, who is considering joining the Board.

Sam Cesario, children's librarian , was representing Alex Reczkowski.

The minutes of June 14, 2018 were approved.

Bob Bresnahan reviewed the budget and the revised 2019 budget was approved. Total assets as of 8/31/18 are \$53,905.21.

President's Report:

A thank you note was received from Mass Audubon for our \$250. donation in support of their library admissions program.

PCTV Annual Meeting will take place this evening. James Arpante will be attending.

It was decided to take out a \$50. Membership in the Western Mass Library Advocates.

Amy demonstrated modifications to the credit card machine which will be used at the November book sale. Assistance at the book sale will be available.

Director's Report:

Sam Cesario presented the following in Alex's absence:

A large thank you poster signed by the children was presented and will be hung in the children's library.

Last summer 620 people attended 17 programs. This summer 900 people attended 36 programs.

A Williams College professor is planning to present a program on the telescope.

The performers, "Roly Poly Guacamole", complimented us on our sound system.

Many thanks for the nice Sorters' Luncheon and also for working so hard to keep all the many donations in check.

The Festival of Trees flyer from the Berkshire Museum was distributed. No decision was made on the Friends sponsoring a tree.

Alex is working on the Annual Report for next week's (Sept. 19th) Annual Trustee Meeting. He will share this report with the Executive Committee.

The telephone upgrade project has been continually pushed back. The current estimate is for it to be completed by the end of October. This will mean that the hone in the microfilm storage room will have a direct line for the Friends and the Friends will have a voicemail for potential volunteers to call and leave a message.

Work continues on the Library's rebranding project. We will have a sneak peek together by next week.

We need to apply by April for the Herman Melville Literary Landmark for his 200th birthday in August 2019.

Programs:

Ann Tierney sent a thank you note for her knitting class stipend Her husband, Phil, will be filming programs for

PCTV. Marilyn has been unable to post on the TV bulletin because of a crash.

There is a yoga class to be considered after the first of the year in the afternoon. There needs to be a Board member present to oversee waivers.

There are 11 more programs until the end of December. Florian complimented Marilyn on the great programs

Amy is looking for a volunteer for the email blast.

Book Sale:

Nancy will look into another fan, as well as chairs for the Friends' room. There was discussion of the need of helpers to bring books to patron's cars.

Newsletter:

Ross would like articles right away before the November book sale. He should communicate with the History Dept. for an article on Don Lutes' passing. It was voted to appropriate \$100 for a book to be chosen by the History Department.

Publicity:

James is tenaciously pursuing The Eagle to be sure we are credited with the correct amount for our ads. There were "thank you to the public" ads published. He will revamp the ad in The Gazette. He will look into new venues, i.e., placemats,

"Coffee News" and possibly a Jewish newspaper, and online at The Eagle. There was discussion of "political-type" signs people could display on their lawns.

New Business:

There was discussion advocating a very small membership table after book sale opens on Thursday night at the other entrance.

There will be nominations for new members to the Executive Committee accepted at the Annual General Meeting on October 25th.

Plans for the Friends of Library Week – October 22nd to 26th are as follows:

Monday:	Cookies
Tuesday:	½ Price Library Store Items – Performer
Wednesday:	½ Price Friends' Membership – Freebies
Thursday:	Annual General Meeting – 3 p.m. 80 th Anniversary of the Friends – Cake
Friday:	Cookies
Saturday:	Pumpkin Carving

Old Business:

Florian will proceed with the Friends' brochures

The meeting closed at 5 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 25th, at approximately 3:30, after the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan