



10 Community Way | East Greenbush, New York 12061
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Minutes of April 16, 2019

Present:

Mari Harris, Scott Ebeling, Lois Hazelton, Jill Dugas Hughes, Dinah Farrington, Linda Murphy, Liz Reyner, Anne Burton, Joan Mason, Patrick Cronin, Tricia Ferguson, Karen Foster

Minutes:

Minutes of the February 13, 2019 regular meeting were reviewed and Joan Mason was added as being in attendance.

The minutes were unanimously approved with Anne moving and Dinah seconding.

Treasurer's Report :

Liz Reyner submitted the treasurer's report. The balance as of April 16, 2019 is \$32,022.12. The report was approved unanimously, with Tricia moving and Karen seconding.

Membership/Database:

Renewal applications have been received, 222 renewals and 2 new members to date. We currently have 260 active members and we will do a second mailing once Karen has entered all of the renewals into the database. It was noted that there were a significant number of donations in addition to the membership dues.

Patrick Cronin is still working on an online database.

Book Sales:

The volunteer sign-up for the book sale is going fairly well. Another note to Friends will go out this week. EG Schools and the Boy Scouts have also been notified of the need for volunteers.

It was mentioned that both Colonie and Schenectady libraries have book sales the same weekend as ours.

Some ideas for the future were discussed including the possibility of a "Better World Books" drop box and charging a fee for the first night of the sale.

Public Relations/Newsletter:

Susan and Lois have arranged for notices in on social media, print and on-line event calendars to publicize the book sale. Lois mentioned that the cost of the ad for the Advertiser has increased and we will be running an ad on Thursday, April 25th to publicize the book sale. Lois will be putting up new lawn signs in the community to advertise the sale. Flyers were handed out to post in the area also.

Advocacy/Membership Committee:

Anne spoke about NYLA advocacy day on February 27th and the final resulting State budget changes. The Governor had proposed a \$5 million cut in the budget which was reversed by the Legislature, for a total of \$96.6 million in total library aid for 2019-2020. There were, however, significant cuts in state library construction aid in the final budget. The Legislature was unable to reverse the Governor's \$20 million cut, so capital funding was reduced to \$14 million. There will be \$15 million in targeted aid to school districts, public libraries and not-for-profits, divided equally between the Senate, Assembly and the Governor. Anne suggests going to the NYLA site to find templates for letters thanking legislators for their efforts with the budget and asking them to keep the Library in mind for targeted aid – especially Assemblyman John McDonald, Assemblyman Jake Ashby, Senator Daphne Jordan and Senator Neil Breslin (www.nyla.org).

Friends News:

Friends sponsored the “Trio Lingo” jazz program on April 14th which was enjoyed by the audience. There will be a meet the author event at the library on Saturday May 18. Wanda Fischer will discuss her book “Empty Seats”. Due to the baseball theme of this book, Anne will see if the Valley Cats may be interested in sending a representative to the program.

Library news:

The Library will be negatively affected by the cut in the NYS construction aid for libraries, although the Library did gain additional money due to some last-minute reallocations. Jill also mentioned that the Library will be involved with the 2020 census and that information will be coming in the future, including how the Library can benefit from the \$20 million allocated in the budget to the Empire State Development Corp. for complete count efforts. Jill also presented a spreadsheet accounting for how the Library has spent Friends grant money to date this year.

The Board of Trustees will be discussing and approving the options for a new sign at the corner of the Michael Rd. and Rt. 151. This sign will be funded by St. Peter's Health Partners.

New Business

Due to the resignation of the treasurer, due to health reasons, there is an immediate vacancy for this position. There are several positions ending their 2- year terms at the end of the calendar year in November, all officers will be up for election as well as openings for public relations, book sale chair, and co-chair.

Next Friends Regular Meeting: June 18, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Submitted by Linda Murphy and Tricia Ferguson