

Friends of the Randolph Public Library

Board Meeting
February 10, 2021
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Catherine Zirpolo called to order the meeting of the Board of the Friends of the Randolph Public Library at 9:02 AM EST on February 10, 2021. This meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

II. Attendance

- Catherine Zirpolo – Co-President
- Yvonne Jenkins – Librarian
- Anne Forsyth – Co-President
- Michelle Cormier – Treasurer
- Kayla Demers – Secretary
- Steve Teczar – Guest – Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Randolph Public Library

III. Role of the Library Trustees and partnership with the Friends

Catherine invited Steve to share more about the Trustees, his perception of the Friends, and his goals for the two groups working together. Steve began by sharing about himself and his history with the library. He also discussed how the Board of Trustees is an “extension of the town government,” helping to manage the budget of tax dollars that are given to the library for resources.

In terms of the Friends, Steve’s initial perception was that the group was comprised of enthusiastic people who donated significant time and energy to get the new library built. He saw the two priority functions of the Friends as (1) raising funds for the library and (2) supporting the Book & Bake Sale.

Steve sees the Friends as a supporting group for the librarian and the librarian – Yvonne has such great ideas for programming and continuing to grow engagement with the library, and she needs a nucleus of support for these initiatives. He has also been trying to figure out how to revive the Friends group (mailing lists, letters, tote bag, etc.), noting that the past year of this pandemic has proven to be an additional challenge.

In summary (1) the Friends need to regroup to figure out its strategy and go-forward plan, and (2) the Friends need to rekindle full community engagement with the library. Being supportive of Yvonne and being creative will be instrumental to the Friends’ efforts.

The funds raised from the Book Sale go directly to the Trustees – it goes into the RPL Checking account, separate from the town funds (Town Checking). Bake Sale funds raised go to the Friends.

One of Steve’s main hopes for this summer is to revive the Book & Bake Sale.

Catherine asked how the Friends would know what the Trustees are doing – Steve said that they had discussed a “liaison” from both the Friends and the Trustees to cross-pollinate information.

IV. Librarian’s Update

- **Zoom update:** We did purchase the Zoom account, and Michelle reimbursed her immediately

- **Great North Libraries programming:**
 - Pricing:
 - We owe the Gorham Library **\$162.50** for the Great North Libraries programming (5 programs for the price of 1).
 - \$100 Ski Museum Honorarium (Tuckerman Ravine)
 - \$200 White Mountains
 - \$250 Squam Lakes – only wanted 40 people at programming, so 2 programs
 - \$100 AMC Honorarium – Alpine Garden
 - Progress on program:
 - Great response rates thus far. For Tuckerman’s, 150 RSVP’d, and 96 logged in (many had multiple people watching per household)
 - 60 people responded to the questionnaire – almost all positive, with more people noting that they preferred Zoom programs over in-person events at this time
 - Lessons learned:
 - Next time, they’ll advertise first to the participating libraries before advertising to other NH libraries
- **Summer Children’s Programming:** Theme for the summer is “Tails and Tales.” Yvonne needs to start planning for that & needs funds (\$200)
- **Community Read:** The Great North Libraries had a meeting yesterday (2/9), and they are planning a community read of Ty Gagne’s *The Last Traverse*
 - October 6th: an Author talk has already been booked
 - The group wants individual libraries to host smaller book groups
- **Summer Map & Compass Workshops:** Yvonne would like to do Outdoor Programming. 10 people per group. Would like Friends support for purchasing Compasses & Maps
 - Michelle suggested that participants pay a nominal amount to have some “investment” in the program. Yvonne suggested that we ask for a donation, since Library programming is free
 - Supplement with visitors: Might try to get someone from Fish & Game or from Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR)
- **Book Sale:** If we can do it this summer, it would have to be outdoors (or, per Michelle’s suggestion, at the Municipal Building). Yvonne also suggested it be longer than 1 day.
 - Michelle mentioned that Randolph elections will be held next month, but the town will not be holding the town meeting until June in the hopes that we might be able to gather
- **Library Re-opening:** Library is opening on Monday, 2/15. Yvonne is fully prepared, has taken all precautions, and is following all guidelines. Any items returned are “quarantined” for 72 hours. She feels really good about it, but if she runs into any issues, she’ll close the library.
 - NH libraries are starting to reopen
 - Yvonne will continue to offer curbside pickup for those who don’t want to go inside
 - Anne suggested that the library purchase Air Purifiers, too
- **Old Library Building:** Anne asked about this library. Michele said that this is a town building and stated that the town will continue to maintain it, but in small steps. In the past the roof has been replaced; there are new front steps and railings, and the brush has been kept away from the foundation. The town is looking into repairing (re-glazing, repointing and repainting) the windows. It is not a Library expense item, nor is it a Friends obligation. It can and should be used for Library or Friends events, and it is hoped to be used for displays during the town bicentennial in 2024. Yvonne suggested that we host the Book & Bake Sale there too.

Anne made a formal motion to authorize the librarian to make the following expenditures: (1) \$162.50 to the Gorham Library for the Spring Zoom Programming and (2) \$200 for Children’s Programming this summer. Catherine seconded the motion. All in favor.

Air purifiers would be further researched first.

V. Approval of the Minutes from the January 13th, 2021 Meeting

Michelle made a motion to approve the minutes. Anne made a request to remove any donors' names and made a motion to approve meeting minutes as amended. Michelle seconded the motion. All in favor.

VI. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items

- Discuss Friends membership & membership campaign strategy
- Talk about email account for Friends
- Talk about old Library building

VII. Follow-Ups/Next Steps

- Anne/Kayla to connect on what to say at Trustees board meeting (February 15 at 6:30 PM EST)
- Yvonne to send list of people who actually submitted the form to be a "Friend"
- Yvonne/Kayla to connect on Zoom account
- Kayla: send March meeting invite: **March 10th at 9 AM EST via Zoom**

VIII. Close

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM EST.

IX. Addendum

On February 15, 2021, Kayla attended the Trustee Board meeting and gave an update on the Friends, our goals for this year, and our interest in working closely with the Trustees. The update was warmly received by the Trustees.

During that meeting, it was discussed that Kayla and Heather, as secretaries, would share meeting minutes as "liaisons." Steve and Heather would be Trustee contacts for any questions.