

**DRAFT** October 2019 Minutes of the Board of the Friends of the Sawyer Free Library  
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

**Present:-** Rebecca Aliberte, Kecia German, Colleen Hogan-Lopez, Sandy Reinecke, Jane Gagliardi, Gail Sarofeen, Lisa Christensen-Foley, Jeff Shindell, Rosemary Howarth, Dennis Corkery, Shelagh McCauley

**Absent:-** Leslie Pearlman

**Minutes:-**(Shelagh McCauley)

The minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2019 were accepted unanimously after 2 minor corrections.

**Treasurer:-**(Rosemary Howarth and Kecia German)

The [Treasurer's financial report](#) (click on blue underlined text) was voted upon and approved. Mary-Kathryn (MK), the library's book keeper, will be assuming the bulk of the Treasurer's responsibilities as we try to simplify the Treasury position. Kecia German will resign as VP to assume the Treasurer's position replacing Rosemary Howarth until October 2020. Kecia will work with MK to develop a streamlined process and reporting for future Treasurer nominees. The Board voted unanimously to accept this new arrangement. The position of Vice-President will be vacant for the present.

**Director:-**(Deborah Kelsey)

A question arose as to whether the \$300,000 given by the SFL Board to the SFL Foundation was a grant or loan. This decision is now in the hands of the library's attorneys. The SFL Board hopes to raise \$500,000 annually. Library Strategies is undertaking a feasibility study regarding the new building and will conduct twenty-five "spot" interviews.

Deborah announced that the library is sponsoring several programs on immigration, rising ocean levels and trust in the media. There is also a co-sponsorship of a play "Native Gardens" with Gloucester Stage. Gail Sarofeen requested information of the cost of sponsoring this program. A Halloween event is in the works, co-sponsored by a Civic Hub Grant.

Library attendance is down this past year.

Saunders House is having gutters replaced and repaired.

**Book Committee:-**(Kecia German)

Income from the Book Shop was \$330 for September. As of October 10 Book Shop monthly income was only \$97 however another \$325 was received from the sale of "value" books by Colleen Hogan-Lopez to local book seller, David Cox.

The Special Seasonal section will highlight Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. New posters will be made by Colleen to highlight this sale. Beth will be asked to place in posters at the front and rear entrance kiosks.

**Art Auction:**(Gail Sarofeen)

Preliminary sales amounts are about the same as last year. Two more volunteers are requested for next year. There were fewer bidders than last year. The postcards were useful publicity vehicles. It will be possible to display more art in the main library. Rosie is working with Gail to identify artists who no longer participate so new artists can be recruited. Jane suggested approaching students at the Beverly Montserrat School of Art. Gail Sarofeen was congratulated on her sterling efforts with the Art Auction.

**Membership:** (Kecia German)

To date the income is \$6050, including a generous donation of \$1,000 from a local benefactor. 115 memberships have been sold including 52 benefactors, 22 families, 19 individuals and 22 seniors. Another flyer will be distributed on November 15.

At a future date Lisa Christensen-Foley will work with Kecia to improve our system of communication with and tracking of members.

**Product:-** (Dennis Corkery)

It was noted that there were no small notecards on display. Dennis will check with Leslie Pearlman

**Public Relations:-** ( Colleen Hogan-Lopez, Sandy Reinecke)

Posters as described above are being created.

**Old business:-**(Rebecca Aliberte)

The Sawyer Medal Project was received lukewarmly and is being re-assessed. It can be removed from our Friends agenda.

**New business:-**(Rebecca Aliberte)

Seacoast Nursing Home is holding a fair on Saturday, November 23. Due to its close proximity to Thanksgiving and the Middle Street Walk, the Friends declined to participate.

Massachusetts Friends of the Library newsletter is being received by Rebecca. She will follow up on their advocacy efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.20pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 3pm**

Respectfully submitted, Shelagh McCauley