

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SAWYER FREE LIBRARY, WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020

THE MEETING WAS HELD IN AUDIOVISUAL FORM USING THE ZOOM APPLICATION ON LINE BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION.

PRESENT: A roll call was taken. Rebecca Aliberte, Kecia German, Jeff Shindell, Sandy Reinecke, Gail Sarofeen, Colleen Hogan-Lopez, Lisa Christensen-Foley, Jane Gagliardi, Rosemary Howarth, Shelagh McCauley

ABSENT: Dennis Corkery

GUESTS: John Day, Jenny Benedict

Introduction: (Rebecca Aliberte)

Jenny Benedict was introduced and welcomed as the new Director of the Sawyer Free Library.

Minutes: (Shelagh McCauley)

The Minutes of the meeting held on June 17, 2020 were accepted and approved unanimously.

Assistant Director: (Beth Pocock)

No report.

Treasurer: (Kecia German)

No income or expenditure for this month.

During the clearing out of the Children's Room in preparation for renovation \$25 was found. This will be placed in our Treasury next month.

Our bank CD's will mature in October. To date a profit of \$870 has been realized. Unfortunately, bank rates are now down by two thirds.

Mary Katherine, the bookkeeper of the SFL, is retiring at the end of July.

Sawyer Free Library: (John Day)

The Sawyer Free Library Board wanted more information on the rationale for postponing the Art Auction. Gail Sarofeen explained the pros and cons of having a virtual auction and based on the likelihood of not much income from a virtual Art Auction, a decision was made by the Friends Board to postpone it and to return to the topic next spring.

Books: (Shelagh McCauley)

Very many unsolicited donations have come in. All books are quarantined for 72 hours. The company, More Than Words is unable to pick up our unwanted books and their bins at the library are filled to overflowing. We have been pruning the Book Shop shelves and going through the donations in the Cage, boxing those books for More Than Words and keeping them in the Cage for the time being. Next week we expect to start sorting some of the large pile of books, now being kept in the basement.

Product: (Dennis Corkery)

No activity on account of the library being closed.

Membership: (Kecia German)

At present there is no Chairperson for this team. An annual membership request in the form of an eblast letter will be sent to current and previous members of the Friends on August 17, September 28 and November 9. The letter will outline our activities in the past and at present.

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

Details of solicitations for membership in the Friends will be sent to Good Morning Gloucester, the Gloucester Daily Times and the Beacon Press. A 2020 membership form is being created and will be sent out with a Membership renewal letter as an eblast;

Art Auction: (Gail Sarofeen)

A letter was sent to all of our previous contributing artists indicating that the Friends Art auction was being postponed.

Kecia German will check on the Essex Greenbelt virtual Art Auction as it is rumored that participation was low.

The Montserrat College of Art has expressed interest in contributing to the Art Auction. Gail Sarofeen will discuss this with a representative from the College and will indicate that the Friends like to give priority to Cape Ann artists.

Nominating Committee: (Dennis Corkery), in absentia

With the Friends business year ending on September 30, nominations for two year terms of officer positions are being sought. These positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. To date, Rebecca Aliberte said she would be willing to serve as Vice-President and mentor a new President. Jane Gagliardi has volunteered for the position of Secretary. Kecia German volunteered to continue as Treasurer.

New Business: (Rebecca Aliberte)

The Friends portion of the SFL website badly needs updating. Many Board members have sent suggestions on this topic to Rebecca Aliberte. She will ask the Assistant Director, Beth Pocock if the SFL Information Technology person can help with this process.

Renovations to the Children's Room have started.

Questions as to when the library might open to the general public remain unanswered at this time. Engineers are assessing the air quality.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10.45am.

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, August 19 at 10.00am again using internet services for a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Shelagh McCauley

