

Friends of the Exeter Public Library

Meeting minutes 12/18/18

Present: Sarah James, Lorraine Jurdi, May Delaney, Barbara Young, Hope Godino, Susan Scales, Deborah Twombly, Linda George, Kathy Boudreau

1. Kids Activity Day at the Library: Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 26th from 2 to 5 pm because the Friends group is putting on a "Kids Activity Day" in the library meeting room! We see this as a way to raise our profile among the younger family crowd, raise a little money (there will be no set fee but there will be a donation jar) and have some fun! Parents can stay or can drop off their kids. We'll show a movie, serve refreshments (probably water, juice and popcorn to minimize the risk of any allergic reactions) and have some coordinated crafts and read aloud time. Final choice of the movie has not been made, but maybe "The Tale of Despereaux" which meets the basic qualifications: G rating, since the activity day is targeted to ages 5 to 11, old enough that many kids will not have seen it but not so old as to be dated (it came out in 2008) and a nice library tie in because the book (a Newbury medal winner) is still very popular and the author has written a number of other books for a variety of ages as well. Tentatively Kathy will read aloud and Linda and Deb will work on a craft, maybe an origami bookmark, maybe with a mouse tie-in (since Despereaux himself is a mouse!). Linda and Sarah will preview the movie in the next few weeks and evaluate whether it will be a good fit for our activity. To facilitate further planning before our next meeting Sarah will create a special email sub-group of interested people where we can share ideas. Let us know ASAP if you can help with donations and if you can help plan or staff the activity - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

2. Farmer's Markets:

The Winter Farmers' Markets are ongoing. We are all set to have an information and book swap table at the 3/9/19 market at Exeter High. Let us know if you can staff the table for an hour or two.

The Summer Farmers' Markets sign-ups are open. We decided to try to sign up for a market once a month. Sarah will go on the website and try to sign up for the market that occurs 9 days after our meetings, so that we can use the meeting to drum up volunteer support. More on this when we get confirmation.

3. Library Renovation: The library's great new renovation plan has been approved by all 5 members of the Select Board! Publicity has begun with pamphlets and a slide show running continuously on a monitor near the adult circulation desk. While scaled back and substantially less expensive than last year's proposal the current plan retains many of the same features: needed repairs to the leaky roof and other failing systems, reconfiguration of the meeting spaces to increase flexibility while still meeting community needs and renovation of both the children's and adult's areas to improve access and organization. There will be no RiverWalk but there will be more beautiful windows letting in light and providing great views! We discussed several ways the Friends Group can help the library in this effort:

- Talk up the project to anyone you know who is an Exeter voter. Encourage them to see the slide show, pick up some pamphlets to share at the circulation desk and (of

course) plan to vote yourself. The election is scheduled for 3/12/19 in the Talbot Gym at SST, aka the old high school.

- Attend the town deliberative session on 2/2/19 to voice your support for the library.
- Make a donation to help buy some yard signs to publicize the warrant article. Each sign costs about \$20. Hope will investigate the particulars. If you can help please contact the library or the Friends Group!

4. Member-at-Large: Lorraine agreed to be our member-at-large. Thank you Lorraine !!!

5. Library Donate a Book Program: We discussed ways to publicize this program year round, with the potential to increase its visibility next fall as a holiday gift item. Hope will try to find us a dedicated bulletin board in the library that we can use for publicity. Sarah wrote up the steps in the donation process and Susan Scales will look them over and think about next steps, Susan Wakefield of the RiverWoods Boulders library committee is a valuable contact who can help us investigate publicity options there in the future.

6. School Supplies for Teens: We have put a donation box in the library and the response has been great! Donors have generously been bringing in paper (college ruled and graph), pens, pencils (regular and colored) and markers for teens to use when they study in the library. The teens are thrilled! Any donations you might make when you stop by the library are much appreciated!

7. Financial Matters: We have \$173 in our bank account and will use \$75 of that for this year's non-profit registration. Kathy will follow up on an inquiry we received from the NH Charitable Foundation regarding a potential interested donor. Wow!

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 8TH AT 6:30 PM IN THE LIBRARY. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !!!