

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

5/11/21 Meeting Minutes

In attendance – Bernadette Rivard, Jane Vichi, Brenda Griffin, Mike O'Herron, Dina Pierce, Melissa Jacques, Cheryl Melendy **Guests:** Marybeth Came & Stacey Durant from Savers

Start: 7:01 PM

Marybeth Came & Stacey Durant from Savers presentation (at end of minutes).

Meeting Minutes (3 / 9 / 21) – motion to accept Secretary's report made by Mike O'Herron , seconded by Melissa Jacques and passed on a unanimous vote.

Meeting Minutes (4 / 13/ 21) – motion to accept Secretary's report made by Cheryl Melendy , seconded by Melissa Jacques and passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – as attached (per Dina Pierce) – as of 3/31/21

Balance: \$4,083.45

Income & expenses: as per report - Income: \$275.40

Expenses: \$ 1,624.61

Balance as of 4/30/21: \$ 2,734.24

Pending : LFG-March Inv \$322.33

One Up Games/Game Tournament \$200.00

School Life/Supplies \$169.72

Oriental Trading/Jungle Theme \$437.81

Actual checking balance \$1,604.38

2CDs at Middlesex Savings \$ 10,387.04 [3 month CD automatically rolls over and the 2 year CD was changed to a 1 year maturity]. Interest rate is so low that \$1,000 could be removed from the 3 month if needed due to present checking balance or unanticipated needs. Per Bernadette: Town funds will resume July 1. Recommend that the Friends continue present funding for another month then town funds will be accessible for library needs. May soon restart fines for overdue books as well. Special thanks and appreciation to Middlesex bank whose support has gotten us through the past year. Awaiting response from Rockland Trust for \$1,500 grant. Grants being reviewed quarterly instead of monthly. Bernadette will follow-up.

Total in combined accounts \$11,991.42

Discussion: Do we need to monitor vendor purchases from the Book Nook? With 1 shelf of books removed, would have expected more money in the donation box. Donation box is on the honor system. Foot traffic is starting to pick up in the library and hopefully Book Nook donations will improve.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Melissa Jacques , seconded by Brenda Griffin and passed on a unanimous vote.

Library Director's Report and Requests – presented by Bernadette Rivard

Museum Pass Update:

Southwick Zoo – Available for purchase. Sold for \$20 each, up to 4 per patron and they must be Bellingham residents or members of the Friends to purchase. We have sold 9 to date.

Mass State Parks Pass – available for reservation starting May 22nd.

Davis Farmland – available for reservation

Tower Hill Botanic Garden – Will be ready for reservation by the end of the month.

Zoo New England – available for reservation.

Hall at Patriot Place – available for reservation.

Trustees of the Reservations – Will be ready for reservation by the end of the month.

Museum of Fine Arts – available for reservation.

New England Aquarium – available for reservation.

Everything will be open by the end of the week. Instructions are available for each site.

Book Nook

\$75.40 in income in April. Things are slowly picking up!

300th Anniversary Book Update

Sold 1 book online today. Done to 3 books. Will not reorder any at this time.

Summer & Fall Fundraising Ideas

Summer Mini-Book Sale - Can be planned for Saturday, June 19th, the last Saturday the library is open for the summer. I'd suggest hours of 9-2. I'm not sure if I will be available to be here, so we need to make sure we have enough volunteers to cover it. June 19 is now a State Holiday so the Library will be closed.

New date is August 13 and 14. This will dovetail with Steve's costume character program [Elephant & Piggy, Mother Bruce] with children having their pictures taken outdoors with their favorite character.

Mini book sale-enter 1 library door, enter large room with 2 long tables going down the middle then exit through another door and pay on the way out. Keep the Book Nook books where they are. Can use shelving in the large room to display books as well.

Present inventory is 1 bin of paperbacks, lots of DVD's. Jane has kept a list of people wishing to donate. She will contact people to determine the type of books that they want to donate and compare it to books needed for the sale.

Sale times: Friday from 3-6 pm and Saturday from 9-1pm. Would need a volunteer cashier and maybe 1 other. Can set up the room in advance.

ABC Crafts Bag as a Membership reward – Steve has put together some craft bags with an ABC theme. I'd like to do a promotion where anyone who joins the Friends or renews their membership before June 30th gets a free craft bag (while supplies last!) The website contains the instructions for the craft bags. [Join The Friends and Take Home Crafts](#).

Incentives for Adults to join:

- Give away Passes for new members and renewals (>100 non-renewals to date including Trustees & staff members)
- Restaurant gift cards drawing [Dina will approach the Beef Barn, Cheryl will approach Town Pizza & PJ's]

Library Gift Fund Reimbursement

Attached is the invoice for the agreed expenses that will be paid by the Friends to the library gift fund. \$389.30 is due to the library gift fund. Due to the declining balance in the Friends bank account, I am proposing that next month be the last month that the Friends routinely pay these expenses. If at some point in the future the library budget again cannot absorb them, I will again reach out to the Friends for assistance with these expenses. I am hoping the copier income will soon begin to increase and more than likely the library will be resuming charging late fees sometime in July.

Funding requests:

Gift fund \$389.30

Item	Description	Unit Price	Total
WiFi Hotspots	April Invoice	157.50	157.50
Public Copier	April Invoice	164.83	164.83
Program Supplies	Alphabits Graduation	59.97	59.97
Total			389.30

Motion to approve \$389.30 was made by Melissa Jacques , seconded by Brenda Griffin and passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion to approve \$89.40 for Summer Reading Supplies was made by Cheryl Melendy , Melissa Jacques and passed on a unanimous vote.

Next meeting date: I won't be available for our normal meeting date in June. I propose we delay it one week until June 15, 2021 at 7 pm. Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday at 7 pm.

Jane Vichi, President

Fall Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraiser: online program that can be personalized. Online orders shipped directly to the customer with 50% of proceeds going to the Friends. Free brochures, shipping & handling (shipping charge applies to online sales orders). Combining brochure & online sales provides maximum profit. Orders are shipped according to recommended planting times related to specific state & included planting instructions. Recommend including in August book sale for fall planting

Fund Raising:

Melissa: 2 fellow teachers are collaborating & providing Air Frying cooking classes via Zoom. They post pictures & recipes on Facebook & Instagram [Airfrying.addict]. One teacher getting married in October. Consider either in November or after New Years. Melissa will obtain further information.

Book sale

Bernadette will post schedule & dates for volunteer sign-up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM on a motion by Mike O'Herron , seconded by Melissa Jacques and passed on a unanimous vote.

Savers presentation by Marybeth Came

- The Mount Pleasant Library raised \$3,000 after 4 fundraisers.
- Marybeth works with the Fund Drive Division which works with local non-profits.
- The non-profit collects clothing, keeps track of the bags of clothing and determines the date/delivery time for all the bags to be delivered to Savers in Woonsocket.
- The bags are weighed upon delivery by Saver staff [it takes about 45 minutes]
- The non-profit receives their proceeds within 5-10 business days
- shoes, clothes, bed linens, pocketbooks are weighed with the non-profit receiving \$00.20/pound
- hard goods need to be boxed and the non-profit earns \$00.02/pound
- 139 black bags [2,500 lbs] generally earn about \$500.00
- 33 gallon black bags are about 23 pounds equaling ~\$4.50/each
- white kitchen bags are about 13 pounds equaling ~\$2.50/each
- Non-profit needs to promote the fundraiser, collect and store bags until delivery date to Woonsocket.
- Savers will also pay to rent a truck for the delivery & reimburse \$75.00

Bernadette recently visited Savers in Woonsocket and was so impressed with how well everything was organized, the quality of the clothes and how reasonable their prices were.

Recommendations from Marybeth:

- Stay away from the word 'recycle'. Instead advertize gently used resalable clothes/items
- Savers provides an online 'toolkit' with flyers and details

Bernadette:

- Promotion & collection could start Saturday June 12 which is the last Saturday when the library is open and end sometime in July.
- Encourage family, friends, neighbors, library staff to donate
- Could consider offering an incentive for the most bags donated
- Donations of clothes, shoes, pocketbooks, bed & bath linens. No hard or heavy items requiring boxes.

Melissa will contact the Dave Cutler Memorial School for donations