

Friends of the Library Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2024

Attendance: Mary Ann Taylor, Janis Giles, Liz Robinson, Nancy Cohen, Rose O'Neil, Lauren Chappell, Diane Giarrusso, Tom Lynch, Nicole Goolishian.

Acceptance of Minutes: Janis moved to accept the minutes. Rose seconded.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report:

Financials included the year through October. We had some nice income from honor cart and movies. Corning gave us \$2,500 but we were able to do \$4,850 in programming since we did partnerships with other libraries.

Elks grant and 100 People were listed as expenses because we received the money last year but spent it this year.

We are breaking even with \$1000.

After our final fundraiser, we should be in the black by the end of the year.

\$13,000 Anniversary Account for furniture

\$36,000 in account.

Town is holding \$33,000 for Friends.

Rose moved to accept the report. Lauren seconded.

Director's Report:

Diane Giarrusso & Nicole Goolishian

Updated count of the minutes currently read for Reading Rivals: 414,113 minutes. We have a big lead over Wilmington.

287 people are on Team Tewksbury.

We are pleased to have Renee Pawlowski as our new Children's Librarian and Laura Falardeau as our new Children's Specialist. Both are current employees who have been promoted. We will now search for a part-time professional librarian to replace Renee, and a FT clerical assistant to replace Laura.

Robert and Emily are planning for the annual Tree Lighting on the Town Common on December 6th.

The Library's new Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Library Trustees at their November Meeting and is available on the library website:

<https://www.tewksburypl.org/about-us/files/strategic-plan-2025-2028>

Our November holiday hours are:

- o Friday and Saturday, November 8 & 9 we close at 3:00 PM
- o We are closed on Monday, November 11 for Veteran's Day.
- o We are closed until 11:00 AM for Staff Training on Thursday, November 21
- o We close at 3:30 on Wednesday, November 27 and all day Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th.
 - o Programming requests will be shared in December.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall-O-Ween Trunk or Treat

This was a very successful event. It was a continuous parade of people from all over. The organizers did a great job and thankfully even gave us more candy to distribute. In addition to candy, Friends passed out info cards about our group and we received over \$100 in donations.

Thanks to the following Friends who represented us at the event:

Irene Benson, Nancy Cohen and her "car", Janis Giles, Doret Pool, Liz Robinson, Mary Ann Taylor

Blind Date With a Book:

If you have any fiction or non-fiction books that are in really good condition and need a new home, please bring to the meeting or book donation drive. If you have a lot and can't attend either of those events, please e-mail the Friends and we will work with you to get the books.

Thanks to Lauren C, Liz R. and Nancy C for all of your hard work wrapping books and to Nancy B for donating some great books.

What is Blind Date With a Book? We will take books of different genres from book donations, wrap them, provide a brief hint of what the book is about, and sell them for \$5 starting November 12th at Friends events.

Friends Awareness Program:

We are still working on creating awareness of what the Friends do for the library. Mary Ann is working with Robert to find out what in-person events are scheduled and expected to have large turnouts. Our goal will be to have a monthly presence at these events – a table with two volunteers who can mention to the attendees our mission, pass out some information, and hopefully receive some donations. We also will sell “Blind Date With a Book” books and “Countdown to Christmas” raffle tickets.

Book Donation Drive:

Saturday, November 9, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Friends representatives will be at the library accepting book donations. If books are not in excellent condition, we will donate them to Tewksbury Hospital for their library.

Countdown to Christmas:

Sale start date will be November 9th. We are still looking for donations of gift cards in any denomination of \$10 or more. Gift cards can be brought to the November or December meetings or left in the Friends mailbox located by the Friends bulletin board in the library. This is our last fundraiser for the year. Let’s make it a great one! Thanks go to Janis for once again spearheading this event. We do have a number of bowling gift cards from our canceled fundraiser, but could use some more.

We sell virtual raffle tickets for \$5 which go into a database. Starting on December 1st, someone will be notified each day for 24 days. If someone wins, the name goes back into the database. This year, we have a bonus raffle. If you buy more than 1 ticket, your name is put into a raffle for a \$100 Café Sicilia gift card.

Christmas Tree:

Janis Giles and helpers decorated a tree but is not going to do it this year. In its place, a snowman will be built from books.

Library Sale Dates:

November:

December:

Saturday, 11/9 10:00 – Noon

Monday, 12/2 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 11/12 10:30 – Noon

Tuesday, 12/10 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Saturday, 11/16 10:30 – Noon

Tuesday, 11/19 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Thursday, 11/21 10:30 – Noon

Friends Meetings:

Friends meetings will be in person through 2024. Zoom meetings will start on January 8th (first Wednesday in January is New Year's Day.)

Dine Outs:

There will be a dine out on Wednesday, November 13th all day at Kyoto's. You may dine in or take out. Please mention Friends when ordering.

NEW BUSINESS:

Friends Meeting Information:

Meeting minutes and the current meeting agenda can be found on the Friends' website under the tab "About Us".

We all get too many e-mails, so starting in January 2025, meeting agendas will no longer be e-mailed, but you will be able to see the agendas and meeting minutes on the website. Mary Ann will see about having Zoom invites included on this page as well. Otherwise, interested people can e-mail the Friend for the Zoom invites. Meeting reminders will be posted in the library and in Friends e-mails. This change is being made because of low attendance at in-person meetings.

Friends E-Mails:

If we hit 500 subscribers, there is a huge jump in costs with our email provider, Constant Contact. Therefore, it is necessary to keep track of our subscriber counts. Currently, we have 444 members. That includes over 200 "Potential Members". Our plan is about \$25/month, but if we go over 500 members the cost increases to approximately \$40/month. If we get to the point where we have 500 paid members, we will gladly pay the \$40/month.

Open Space Winter Walk:

Last year, the Friends participated in the town's Winter Walk. Liz R. and Mary Ann created the ornaments, decorated the space, and removed the decorations. They feel that the amount of time and cost for the event was not worth the effort. If someone wants to take on the project, please contact Mary Ann Taylor.

Volunteer Opportunities:

November 9th Book Donation – All set

Raffle and Blind Date With a Book Sales:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ABAC2EA4FFC16-52938397-rafflebook#/>

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Rose made a motion to adjourn. Lauren seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.