

Friends of the Sharon Public Library Minutes, Board meeting on May 11, 2020 – held via Zoom due to the library being closed

Prepared by: Joanne Blatte

Present: Kate Mason, Joanne Blatte, Amity Kelley, Carolyn Weeks, Alice Cusner, Elizabeth Kassab, Lee Ann Amend (library director)

The town of Sharon has closed the library, schools and town offices in order to slow/stop the spread of the coronavirus

Key Tasks assigned at this meeting:

All:

Stay Safe

Stay informed about ZBA discussions/decisions regarding new library

Alice:

Adopt a Book as needed

Amity:

Set up Zoom meeting for our next board meeting

Carolyn:

Keep us updated on new library status

Elizabeth:

Email sponsors with new date of book sale

Giselle:

Handle memberships, as needed

Joanne:

Manage Website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

Kate:

Handle membership, as needed

Alice motioned to approve April minutes

Amity seconded

Motion passed

Financial Report: Giselle absent

Library Update:

Library has spent \$6,400 so far and will continue spending the rest of what we budgeted for the first half of the year. Since we now have limited funding and can't run our book sale until the Fall (we hope), Lee Ann will not spend any more Friends money until we re-budget. All staff is still getting paid. The library will run on a month-to-month budget for July – September (the new fiscal year).

Attendance at online library programs has been good. Lee Ann has been using some grant money to run the programs. Ancestry is now online. There will be a new summer reading program and Dedham Savings has agreed to provide e-readers again.

Lee Ann goes into the library 2-3 days/week. The drop off box is open. There are 21 bins of library books waiting to be returned to their OCLN library. Libraries are in discussions on how to implement phased openings – bring staff back in stages. Trustees and Union will have input.

The Zoning board of Appeals is meeting on 5/13 via Zoom to discuss variances required for the new library. The neighbors of the new library are in opposition to the size of the new library. All Friends members are urged to attend the meeting and stay informed.

Stay at Home Gala:

The Stay at Home Gala Nights were not as well-received as we hoped. We think we raised \$300-\$400 in donations. Joanne posted all photos that were submitted or posted on social media.

Alice mentioned Charidy – a Website/program that helps non-profits raise money with matching funds. We are concerned about using a third-party and providing them with Friends members and donors info. We did like the idea of asking one of sponsors (current or someone new) to match donations up to a certain dollar amount. The sponsor would still be donating the same amount, but we would use it to motivate others to donate and have their donation matched.

Book Sale:

Kate will solicit more details from Bay State Books about how their book collection bins would work. If we can't run a book sale safely, we could ask the Rec Dept/ Select Board, School Dept, or Shaw's Plaza to let us place a collection bin on their property. The current library does not have enough space for a bin. We might want to consider doing this all year. We would want to work out a deal with Bay State Books to make sure it doesn't reduce the number of books donated for our book sale.

Our next board meeting is Monday, June 8th at 7pm and will be held via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all board members

Elizabeth motioned to adjourn
Alice seconded
Meeting adjourned