

Friends of the Taft Public Library
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2022

In attendance at the meeting were Leesa Michael, Gabrielle Porciello, Andrew Jenrich, Tara Windsor, Caitriona Scott, Lisa Bibring, Sandy Petralia, Paige Rowse and Erica Fritz.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved and will be posted on the Friends of the Taft Public Library page of the Library's Website.

Gabriella thanked Paige and Erica for attending the meeting and emphasized our gratitude for their support of the Friends.

Caitriona attended the January Library Trustee's meeting and gave an overview of our current plans. The next Library Trustee's meeting is February 9th at 6:00pm.

Library Update - Andrew

Library programs will remain remote. The number of COVID cases is declining, so Andrew will check the numbers weekly to determine when the in-person library programs can return.

Brenda Whitner is the new hire for the library which brings the library up to a full staff. Welcome Brenda Whitner!!

As requested by Andrew, the Mendon Fire Chief visited the library to discuss a fire exit plan. The chief also completed a walkthrough and requested materials belonging to the Friends be located in a new location. The materials have been moved.

Andrew is waiting for Superior Roofing to fix the roof leak. The company is behind schedule due to Covid related staffing shortages.

The hybrid meeting system is set up downstairs. Andrew, Tara, and Ellen Agro will be trained to run it. Andrew suggested that one of the Friends could also be trained.

The Strategic Planning Committee for the library is all set with members. There will be a discussion regarding the committee at the next trustee meeting and then the planning process will begin. Over four to six months, the committee will meet three times in order to determine the best initiatives and goals for the library. This is a five year plan.

The first library sponsored Nipmuc Book Club was a success! Nine students attended and the group chose the classic, *Sense and Sensibility*, to be discussed at their next book club meeting.

Financial

Leesa will complete the annual state report and taxes.

Activities

Leesa has set up the Seed Library alphabetically. Lisa and Sandy volunteered to help sort the seeds into small packets. Once sorted, library patrons can choose the seed varieties they would like to take home and grow. A flyer explaining the Seed Library will be sent out.

Flower Power Fundraiser flyers will be left at the library. Patrons can sign up for a variety of flower bulbs in person as well as online. This was an effective fundraiser last year.

The holiday DIY was a huge success! Gabby suggested a Mother's Day DIY which was greeted with approval. A little brainstorming brought up suggestions for stations – card designing, picture frame decorating, paper flower creations, rock decorating (including a clip) as a photo holder and a bracelet table. Further discussion of this program will continue at the next meeting including a Father's Day DIY program.

Go Go Goats has new owners who are interested in collaborating with the library. The goats could be included in the spring cleanup to help remove poison ivy and weeds. Their love of munching can be very beneficial.

Caitriona suggested a program focused on support around COVID stressors. Tara will touch base with Gaye regarding a therapist who might be interested in leading this program.

An activity for students was proposed that could be a facebook challenge. Students would write six words about a given topic. This would involve three groups, elementary, middle and high school students. The winner of each group would receive a gift certificate. This will be discussed further at the next Friends meeting.

The succulent craft from last year was very popular. We will plan another Take and Make for April or May of this year.

Tara suggested a Tea Party Fundraiser in May or June. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Katie Daley from Katydid Flowers is interested in running a wreath making program. She would like to wait until COVID cases have decreased.

Gaye requested that we change the meeting day to the last Tuesday of each month. Upon unanimous approval, our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00pm.