

Friends of the Taft Public Library
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2022

In attendance at the meeting were Leesa Michael, Gabrielle Porciello, Caitriona Scott, Andrew Jenrich, Tara Windsor, Sandy Petralia, Erica Fritz and mental health professional, Meredith

The hybrid meeting system was used for this month's Friends meeting. We had 5 attendees in person and 3 attended via zoom. At least one of the Friends will be trained on how to use the equipment.

Leesa motioned to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2022 meeting. Caitriona 2nd the motion. Minutes will be posted on the Friends of the Taft Public Library page of the Library's Website.

Leesa attended the February Library Trustee's meeting and gave an overview of our current plans. The Trustees expressed their gratitude for the work the Friends group has been doing. The next Library Trustee's meeting is March 9th at 6:00pm.

Library Update - Andrew

The State of Massachusetts is lifting the Mask mandate. As of next week, The Library will lift the mandate for patrons coming in to browse. They will also lift it for Adult only programs. However, they will continue to require masks for all children's programs.

The Strategic Planning Committee for the library is all set with members. Andrew is waiting to hear from Jim Broe, the facilitator, to confirm that he is still able to facilitate for the group, as well as to set the schedule. If Jim is no longer able to facilitate, then Andrew will reach out to the MBLC for a facilitator that has worked with library strategic planning committees in the past.

Roofers have completed the work on the roof and have done a very thorough job. Entire roof was examined and repairs were done where

necessary. Roofer told Andrew to keep an eye out for any issues during rain storms. Roofer will send a final invoice to the library and Andrew will give them the check.

Andrew spoke to the Fire Chief about the possibilities of a generator for the library, and the chief's opinion was that in order to get one for the entire building, he guesstimated the cost to be between \$20,000 - \$60,000, installed. We will possibly revisit this at a later date.

The Library has exhausted the amount of shelving they currently have. They would like to order 25 shelving flats. They have requested samples from Demco and if they work with current shelving units, then the Friends will purchase the additional shelves needed.

4 of the 5 Hot Spots are now available to be checked out of the Library. Andrew is waiting on the cord for the 5th one. They will be due back in 2 weeks. There will be a \$5/day late fee. Each hotspot will have an instructions card that also lists the late fees and replacement fees. No renewals. Andrew and Tara will come up with a flyer to be sent out

Tara has a bunch of programs happening in March and Gabrielle will be working on creating the email blasts

Defibrillator with an Alarmed case has been ordered. Once received, Andrew will check with the Fire Chief to find the best place to have it mounted. Gabrielle will reach out to Leigh Martin to find out what wording she would like on the donation plaque and Andrew will have Signs Plus create it.

Financial

Leesa will complete the annual state report and taxes.

Activities

Leesa has set up the Seed Library alphabetically. There are still more seed packs that need to be done and sorted. Leesa is going to start bringing the

ones that are ready to the Library. Leesa will update the flyer so we can send out an email blast.

Flower Power Fundraiser - we have found out that the fundraiser can only be done with flyers or online, NOT both. We have chosen to stick with the on-line version. That option was very well received last year.

Mother's Day DIY will be discussed at the next meeting

Caitriona reached out to Go Go Goats new owners. Waiting to hear back to see if April 30th will work for them. Group decided that it would be better to have the Spring clean up another day. Caitriona has suggested having a craft table set up for kids to come watch the goats and do a goat related craft. She came up with a couple of crafts.

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.

Tea Party Fundraiser - Gabrielle will reach out to BVT Culinary department to see if they would like to create Tea Sandwiches and a dessert treat. Caitriona will reach out to Nipmuc Jazz Band to perform, Leesa will provide tablecloths and look to purchase disposable tea cups, plates, etc.

Facebook competition - Caitriona created a flyer and Gaye will send out the email blast with March flyers

Arborvitae Bushes Caitriona will talk to a Landscaper to see if they might be interested in helping us, if not then Gaye will reach out to Collins Landscaping.

Mental Health Event - Meredith presented some ideas and will email Tara with some dates for late March. Gaye had a 2nd option for Therapist and we will discuss further at the next meeting about continuing it as a series with different presenters.

The next Friends meeting will take place as a Hybrid Meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 7:00pm

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:15pm