

Friends of the Taft Public Library Meeting Minutes 3/29/2021

Gaye, Sue, Leesa, Andrew, Tara and Caitriona met virtually via zoom.

Friends revitalization:

First on the agenda were the meeting minutes from 2/22/2021, which were approved by all present. Gaye placed the minutes in the google drive. Going forward they will be filed there by the Secretary of the Friends upon receipt of passcodes.

Monthly meetings will now be set for the last Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

The new Facebook page will go live on 4/5/2021. Leesa shared her screen showing the layout and then added Tara as an admin (in addition to Gaye and Leesa), so she can post and perform other functions including additions/removals. The Friends plan to encourage Facebook followers with a raffle promotion; a "like", "post", or "share" of the website each give the user a raffle ticket, three winners will be selected at the next Friends meeting on 4/26/2021 and winners will each receive a gift certificate from a local establishment.

Following a review of the Friends Bylaws, a few minor adjustments need to be made to the Articles of Organization, article VII, to change the street address of the Library and the names/addresses of the directors of the Friends. This change can become official upon filing a certificate with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

To promote greater cohesion, understanding and partnership with the Library, we have created a Memorandum of Understanding, a friendly operating agreement between the Friends and the Library, to ensure that the visions, goals and practices of the Friends and the Library are in alignment with each other. This document was approved by all present. It will be presented to the Trustees and if approved, will be placed in the google drive.

The Friends created a Communications Policy, which addresses the general communications protocol necessary both within the Friends Group and between the Friends and the Community. It also serves to distinguish between personal opinion and organizational position as the organization attempts to avoid any conflict of interest by avoiding personal statements made by any Board Member and the use of the Friends platforms to voice personal opinions. This was approved by all present and will be forwarded to the Trustees at their next meeting. The first initiative stemming from this document is ensuring that more than one individual have access to various accounts.

The Friends plan to begin a recruitment campaign over the next few weeks. This will begin with a brochure being placed in take and make craft bags and virtually via the new website. Details will include who and what the Friends are and various ways to be involved. The matter of reintroducing a membership fee will be addressed post pandemic. Meanwhile the Friends and Library will be checking the policy of other local Friends groups.

The Friends will have at least one member attend the monthly Trustee meeting (on a rotational basis) going forward, with the purpose of updating them on Friends activities and also following up at the next Friends meeting on the Trustee meeting.

Library Update:

Per Andrew, the Library will be reopening to the public on 3/30/202, on an appointment only basis, while still continuing the option of curbside pickup.

The Library is in the process of creating a 10 person 5 year Strategic Planning Committee, which will include representatives from local business, youth, senior citizens and a Friend of the Library.

Financials:

Leesa filed the 2020 taxes and provided account updates including donations and seed purchases.

Seed Library:

Following the March seed request, the seed library received 75 request forms for seeds, with close to 1000 seeds packaged from almost 234 packets purchased. There will be one final email sent out to use the last of the remaining seeds in the seed library.

Events:

Leesa has started plans for a succulent take & make craft, which is expected to take place in April, to be promoted via the Friends and Library websites.

Leesa has also begun planning a series of zoom gardening sessions via the Blackstone Gardening Club. These are scheduled for the last Wednesday of April/May/June/July and will be promoted via the Friends and Library websites.

Summer Reading:

Tara has been working with the Upton Town Library to jointly provide events including a virtual performance of the traveling theatre group, "The Little Red Wagon" and also creating some animal videos in tandem with Southwick Zoo. There will be a virtual pet parade, outdoor story walks and outdoor concerts. Unfortunately due to the safety of the community, certain regular events like the cardboard boat race and the worm race will be postponed for another year. Instead there will be take and make crafts and virtual events.

Community Outreach:

Caitriona plans to reach out to the Mendon Brigade and the Council of Aging to check out their interest level in receiving books and magazines that are no longer current, to be distributed to isolated seniors using meals on wheels and families visiting the town food pantry. The Friends would use books in storage from the book sale and Building Bridges donations. She will also check on the local schools interest levels while distributing weekly boxed lunches.

Next meeting is scheduled for 4/26/2021, via the reoccurring zoom link.