



FRIENDS OF THE W.K. SANFORD COLONIE TOWN LIBRARY MEETING MINUTES

January 14th, 2025 6:00PM

ATTENDING

Edye Benson, Bonnie Hetfield, Nicole Hoffman, Becky Klope, Queen Lewis, Ruth Lyons, Louise McColgin, Elliot Robins, Grace Selkis, Amy Sonder, Jennifer Soucy, Claudia Thornton, Elissa Valente, Mary Van Ullen, Debra Waite.

LIBRARY REPORT

Elissa gave the library report. The library is hosting a Winter Reading Challenge for patrons of all ages. There will be an event at the conclusion. New book clubs are starting, with one designed for introverts and the other focused on reading thrillers. A workshop about youth services summer reading programs will be hosted at our library. Library Advocacy Day is February 5th if any Friends wish to participate. Elissa noted that the library has received lots of positive feedback about programs and services recently, a testament to the work they do. She's organizing a committee to organize the upcoming 50th anniversary of the library, if any of the Friends wish to participate. The electronic platform for museum passes is in the works and should be available soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Becky presented the Treasurer's Report as Leslye was unable to attend. Because no meeting was held in December, we reviewed the reports for two months. The summary is listed below. More details are available on request.

2024 Friends of the Library Budget Month of November, 2024	
Total Income	\$837.53
Total Expenses	\$247.30
Total Balance in Accounts	\$146,062.30

2024 Friends of the Library Budget Month of December, 2024	
Total Income	\$8,642.41

Total Expenses	\$1,770.95
Total Balance in Accounts	\$153,202.76

PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

Becky presented the proposed budget for 2025. The summary is given below. Details about specific categories of income and expense are available on request. While the budgeted expenses exceed income, it should be noted that income projections were conservative and should a deficit occur, there is no problem covering it with our existing account balances.

Friends of the Library Proposed 2025 Budget	
Total Income	\$40,300
Total Expenses	\$47,325

Friends discussed the ongoing expense for drinking water for staff. The Friends have supplied this for staff for many years from Crystal Rock. The cost has increased substantially over the years and Friends asked Elissa if the library can investigate other ways of obtaining purified or spring water at a lower cost. Some possibilities include getting quotes from other vendors or putting in some type of filter on the water supply. Elissa will come back with information at a future meeting.

Louise moved to approve the 2025 budget proposal. Edye seconded and Friends approved.

We will also need volunteers to audit the budget. Queen and Ruth volunteered. We will also need to file taxes this year and will need some assistance with that.

REQUESTS

Name: Jennifer Soucy Funding Amount: \$500

What is the funding for?

First quarter funding for program supplies (supplies for programs for all ages). This request was already approved as it is in the 2025 budget.

Category: Programming

Name: Jennifer Soucy Funding amount: \$525

What is the funding for? Musical performance in October of 2025

Music Union has had many performances at the library for free or half price. The organization reached out for support for a performance in October. The group is called Songs of Sisterhood and is a 7 piece band of women. The total performance cost is \$525. We are asking if Friends would be able to cover the cost. Edye moved to approve and Claudia seconded. The request was approved.

Category: Adult Programming

Date Funding is Required: Prior to the performance

Name: Jessica Kaercher

Funding amount: \$168

What is the funding for? Annual subscription to Ellii.com for the Practice Conversational English program. Every week the program focuses on a new theme to help guide conversations. Ellii.com is used to curate handouts for each theme and we find them very helpful. The website offers a wide range of topics and skills, as well as learning levels. Ellii.com saves time and produces high quality lessons. Last year, Friends purchased the unlimited plan for \$188, but we don't need that level and a smaller plan is equally helpful. The current subscription ends February 6th. Claudia moved to approve and Mary seconded. Friends approved the subscription.

Category: Adult Programming

Date Funding Required: 2/6/2025

END OF THE YEAR APPEAL

Thank you letters will go out by the end of January. Several people volunteered to help stuff envelopes.

FREE BOOK DAYS

A Free book day was held in December and seemed to be successful. We will revisit doing this again in the future if someone is interested in taking the lead. Elliot and Amy expressed that they may be willing to do this.

BOOK WRAPPING--BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

The library needs help wrapping books for an upcoming program called "Blind Date with a Book," where people read a surprise book. Several people volunteered.

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY FUNDRAISER Feb. 1-14th

Volunteers can start making flowers. We can supply books to use. There are spots open online to volunteer to sell them.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mary offered to do a workshop for people who want to learn to craft flowers for the fundraiser. She will get back to Jenn with possible dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm. **The next meeting will be held on Tues. February 11th, 2025, in person at the library at 6:00pm.**

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Van Ullen, Secretary.