



11 Town Center Blvd.  
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533  
friendsofbeekmanlibrary@gmail.com

## FRIENDS OF THE BEEKMAN LIBRARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD FEB. 6, 2024

### OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lynn Adams, Jerry Balcom, Xenia Ebel, Larry Korducki, Kris Macdonald Sec), Jennifer Mihocko (Treasurer), Barbara Rendich (VP), Jeanette Simone, Arlene Vaquer (Pres.), Joan Korducki, and Mary Jane Zukowski.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carol Fortier, Director of the Beekman Library

### CALL TO ORDER:

Arlene called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Xenia moved to accept the December minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded by Larry and passed unanimously.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Jen reported that effective Jan. 31, 2024 we have \$2,658.03 in our checking account, \$182.00 cash on hand, and \$1,070.84 in savings. Our expenses so far this year are \$179.21. Jen explained that we will be fine to pay sales tax and insurance. Kris moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Arlene seconded motion, which passed .

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Prior to her report, Carol announced that Annette is retiring today. The Friends will get a bouquet for Annette to present to her at the Winter Social. She has always been very helpful to the Friends.

Carol reported the following:

#### Administrative

- Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 10 at 2PM.
- We are in the process of changing IT companies. The goal is for the new service to be more streamlined and easier to manage. It will also allow staff to access files from anywhere.

#### Advocacy

- The legislation that allows Association Libraries to obtain 25 signatures to put their budget on the ballot has been signed by the Governor. This will make it possible for us to do budget votes annually for smaller amounts.
- Advocacy Day in Albany is tomorrow. I will be attending and encouraging our legislators to provide adequate funding for our library systems. We are also working on legislation that will allow Association Libraries to be part of the NY State Retirement System. I will be sending an email to all of you with actions you can take to advocate for libraries during the budget process. The number of emails and phone calls legislators receive make a difference in their priorities. [Following this, there was a discussion about how we can advocate for funding for libraries.](#) Carol asked us to write to our legislators for support. Joan further recommended that this link be put on our "Friend's Facebook Page. The State budget vote will be April 1<sup>st</sup>. Carol explained that there is also pending legislation to include Libraries' full-time employees into the NYS Pension Program.

#### Expansion Project

- The project is progressing and all of the HVAC and electrical work will be completed today. Work on the ceiling and closing up all the walls will happen in the next week. Restrooms and flooring will be completed mid to end of February. Cabinetry and doors are scheduled to arrive by the 2-20. They are behind schedule but are confident they can be done by 3-14-24.
- We have adjusted our tween and teen programs to allow you access to the new meeting room on the Friday afternoons before your sales.
- Moving your work day to Mondays will allow us to use the lower level meeting room for toddler and preschool story times on Tuesday mornings. We agreed to move the workday to Monday.

## **Programs & Services**

- The Children's Literary Festival was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had 10 local authors here and 160 participants. The program was very well received.
- We have our next Crucial Conversations scheduled for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. The topic is Immigration and we have speakers from the Heritage Foundation and the NY Immigration Coalition
- Passport Services have been a huge success. We have processed 84 passports since the end of October and brought in more than \$4000 in fees.

**LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING REPORT:** None

### **FLS/NYLA REPORTS:**

Arlene told us that the FLSNYLA has a new improved website which looks much better.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Re-Start 2024:**

Our first book sale is scheduled for Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Carol will see if the Contractors can help us with getting our book shelves back up.

There was a discussion about book donations and sorting. Arlene will announce when we will start accepting donations of books again. Even though we downsized, Carol reminded us that having sellable books on the shelves is better (quality over value).

#### **Book Sale:**

First Book Sale will be March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Construction is scheduled to be completed.

#### **Membership:**

Arlene announced that we have a new working member, Christine Furnia who will be helping with the membership committee and she is currently creating a website for the "Friends".

#### **Fundraising:**

##### **Raffles:**

There is currently a Lottery Scratch Off raffle on the circulation desk. The winning ticket will be drawn the end of February.

The next raffle going up is the March "Italian" Basket. The winning ticket will be drawn at our April book sale.

We are in the process of collecting raffle donations and gift certificates for the monthly baskets. Arlene suggested we begin putting photos up on our Face Book Page of the businesses and owners thanking them and encouraging our neighbors and friends to patronize them.

#### **Social Committee:**

##### **Winter Social:**

Barbara asked that the Winter Social Committee stay behind for a brief meeting.

We will be setting up on Saturday at 4:00 pm and getting to the Library at 12:00 on Sunday.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Projects:**

Little Free Library – no update

Membership Committee Expansion

Arlene will be creating a schedule for membership tables and talking points. There will be a Membership Table at every Book Sale.

Library – Advertising the Friends- There was a discussion about how Library is crediting us.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Library Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm in the Community Room

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm upstairs in the Community Room**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Macdonald, Secretary