

Friends of the Fiske Free Library
Meeting Minutes Feb 4th, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 5:23pm.

Members Present: Renee Mayer, President, John Cloutier, V President, Lisa Gosselin, Secretary, Lynsey Lacourse, Treasurer, Josh Reyes, Trustees Liaison, Whitney Skillen, Elizabeth Cram.

1. Financial report:

Lynsey reported the **Current Balance as of 2/3/26: \$ 16,948.47**

Transactions since our last meeting:

Credits:

\$.41 interest

\$311.53 donations

* \$ 111.53 Edward Jones F80

James Perras

414 ChandlersMill Rd

Newport, NH 03773

\$100.00 Richard C. Lear

6327 Bracketts Crossing

Alexandria, VA 22315

\$ 100.00 Marketing Gift

Mascoma Bank

Mariah Davis

Debits: (Pending)

Ch # 183 \$ 296.01

Renee Mayer reimbursement for Books for the Santa
Event held in December.

Lynsey also reported receiving two grants from Fidelity Charitable:

1. Giving Tuesday \$150.00

2. Donation \$ 50.00

Ian B Carswell 212 Foisy Hill Rd. Claremont NH 03743

Lynsey reported that terms and stipulations were attached to this that restates what non profits can do with these funds. Lynsey recommended accepting them as they are thought to be end of the year donations from "Giving Tuesday". The \$300.00 also donated were end of year donations. Renee will update our mailing lists with these addresses.

2. MOU

Renee submitted our finished document to Mike. He has been asked to review and modify his portion for the March Meeting.

3. Book Drive

The first of three book drives was held at FFL on 1/31/26 from 10-12. Unfortunately there was no heat at the library, so it was closed and the drive was held outside the Library in the cold. The team of Josh, Katie Welsh, Mark White and Whitney Skillen collected books from about a dozen people who brought 1-2 boxes of books each. Collectively this filled the truck bed. Mark has taken flyers to put around town for next two book drives. Renee reported that we've advertised on our Facebook page, thru emails and on our website. Book Inventory: We currently have about 50 boxes of books at this time. Renee wondered if they should be marked in some way to monitor how many sell, the books that don't sell can be reset for the next year. This may help us to know what is selling and what isn't. At our next mtg we will spend a lot of time discussing the process of selling books at the Book Sale.

Next Drives: Sat 2/21 Volunteers: Lisa G, Josh, Lynsey, Mark, Elizabeth.
Sat. 3/7 Volunteers: Josh, Lisa, Martha, Mark.

4. BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK/VALENTINES SOCIAL FUNDRAISER

Thursday 2/12/26 7:00- 8:30 pm at the FFL.

We have about 60 Books to wrap and decorate and a wrapping party will be held Monday, 2/9 at Josh's House at 5:30 pm. People will bring brown paper to wrap the books in such a way to be able to tuck teabags, book marks and decorations into the wrapping. Renee will bring printed

bookmarks, tassels. Josh created labels from our shared google document on which he printed the descriptions and recommended pairings.

Lisa will bring tea bags as well as red heart and red polkadot paper.

Donations: Cash or Stripe Card donations will be accepted using a QR Code.

Refreshments:

Cookies: Renee, Matt, Lisa

Drinks: Coffee Hot chocolate, Mocktails (Whitney)

Carafes: Josh and Ben and Chiara (they also donated hot coffee)

Snacks: Elizabeth will bring popcorn machine.

Paper Products Cups Napkins plates (John) Popcorn bags (Renee)

Table cloths: Lisa and Whitney

Music: Set UP by Josh

PROMOTIONS: In city email, website, FB.

Elizabeth is calling those members without emails

Renee will notify the local friends groups at Newport and Springfield

Josh will contact Cornish

Whitney will notify Kiwanis through Bonnie Miles, and Rotary

Recommended Donation \$5.00 and \$7.00 for Stripe donations.

Renee will be making a flyer for the table which will explain donation process

5. Website

Renee has been investigating different options for website platforms

If you build website on SquareSpace, the lowest plan, there is a 2% fee per transaction, the next level/tier there is no fee per transaction. We can also make our signups and newsletters and announcements. If we do a paid service its about \$300/YR.

WordSpace is thought to be a cheaper platform, but not as user friendly.

Whitney will investigate other platforms that are designed.

6. Library Funding

- Mike reported that the Library is hosting Duncan Watson, from Keene, NH.

Author session Discussion : Duncan Watson will be at FFL on Wednesday, March 25th to discuss his book, "Everyone's Trash": One Man against 1.6 Billion lbs!

John Cloutier moved that we should financially support this, Lynsey seconded. We will submit a check for \$250.00 to be paid to Mr. Duncan for his time. Elizabeth is creating a flyer, and Renee will put this on the website and in emails to membership.

- Magazine and Periodicals. Mike asked for assistance with periodical purchases. Josh moved that we pay \$350.00 for subscriptions, and seconded by Lynsey.

Renee suggested discussed finding local businesses to fund related subscriptions; ie. Lavalleys supports a Woodworking Periodical, etc.

Renee brought up the option of applying for a CSB grant. They come available this spring and she thinks we have a good chance to get some money from them for targeted projects.

6. Library Trustees Meeting

Josh discussed issues raised at the trustee meeting surrounding House Bill 1214 which takes away the library's ability to get a do not trespass order from the police directly, but rather would have to appeal to the city council to do so. This eliminates the importance of the immediacy of acting on a person who has persistently disobeyed Library regulations. Mike urged action about this bill, suggesting reaching out to Dale Girard and city council members to express your concerns about this bill passing.

Josh also reported that the Trustees asked for an ALA Grant to be submitted for funds for a Poetry of Claremont project. Josh wrote the grant and the money requested was for publishing this book of Poetry. He noted that Mike had not wanted to write this grant, as the effort was for a small amount of money, and that there were only two grants being awarded. He also felt that he did not have the time or the staff to manage such a task.

Josh wants to recreate this grant mission as an event either for the Friends or another organization to sponsor. We'll discuss this at a strategic planning meeting on the 17th.

Strategic Planning meeting on 2/17/26 at Lisa Gosselin's house All are invited. The meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa R. Gosselin, Secretary