

FRIENDS OF THE FISKE FREE LIBRARY
STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
February 17, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Renee Mayer, President, Lynsey Lacourse, Treasurer, Lisa Gosselin, Secretary, Josh Reyes, Trustee Liason, Mark White, Marty Davis.

The meeting started at 6:00 pm over dinner. Marty informed the members about a Film, "The Librarians", being shown at the Hartland Public Library this Thursday, 2/19/26. at 6:00 pm. Lively discussion ensued about the success of the Blind Date with a Book Event. We raised \$510.00. Members were very happy with the multigenerational turnout from the membership and community, we felt there were about 40-50 people throughout the 90 min event.

Discussion about surveying the membership and community about what they would like to see offered by our library.

Discussion about the current 2 vacancies on the Board of Trustees, as well as in September, there may be an additional 2 vacancies (if term limits have been met). Members were encouraged to consider offering recommendations for the board.

In an effort to organize our thoughts and observations we created a calendar of existing events for the calendar year.

January: no events planned

February: Blind Date with a Book event coinciding with Valentines Day

Lynsey informed us that Feb is "National Library Lovers Month"

March: Book Drives

April: Book Sale

May: Send out Membership appeal letter

June: Alumni Parade. Perhaps a design contest in the schools for the bookmark handout?

July: Summer Programming (library planned programming)

August: Back to School Festival

September: “National Library Card Sign Up Celebration” FFFL could sponsor a raffle of some sort to encourage signing up.

October: Chili Cook Off

November: Pie Sale

December: The Night Before Christmas Reading by Santa for local children.

Other fundraising ideas: Cookbook, Plant Sale, Restaurant Night Partnership

PLANNING IDEAS DISCUSSED

- 1. Membership Perks:** a new way to incentivise membership!
Offer an extra week on books taken out from the library; first to see books in the book sale; museum membership at local museum?
FFFL could purchase a membership at a local museum(s) that active members could access. Any incentives voted on could be included in the appeal letter.
- 2. Friends Book Club:** another way to incentivise membership recruiting / engagement. Have quarterly book club meetings to read and discuss books. Open to membership and community. Books will be chosen by surveying membership and current members would get their book for free (first come, first serve, as FFFL could purchase 5-10 copies of the book being read, pick up at the monthly meeting, and when finished, members could donate the book back to the FFFL or keep).
- 3. Teen Space:** We have been made aware that monies may have been given to the Library for the express purpose of supporting a teen space at the library. This was discussed and found to be a very intriguing idea and would like to talk with Mike to see how we can

support this, via furniture, volunteer painting, cleaning, organizing the Gilmore room area.

4. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: a committee to work on updating the Constitution and draft By-Laws based upon the revised constitution. This will be discussed at our next meeting on March 4th. Any amendments will follow the outlined procedure in the current Constitution.

5. CREATE A MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT: Asking membership what they want to see the FFFL. We can initiate this by posting a large easel pad at the Book Sale for general ideas. From that information we can create a more formal survey to send out with our appeal letter.

As the hour grew later, the overall sentiment was that we needed another meeting to finalize our plan. We have a lot of great ideas which need to be cleaned up, organized and structured into a Strategic Plan. Marty had provided us all with a document he found online that offers a great model for a Strategic Plan. Lynsey is reviewing this and creating a “task sheet” for us to complete for our next meeting to be held on Tuesday. 2/24/26, at Lisa Gosselin’s house at 7:00 pm. Dessert will be served.