FRIENDS OF THE FISKE FREE LIBRARY
MEETING MINUTES
3/4/26

The Meeting was called to order at 5:17pm.

Members Present

Renee Mayer, President	Elizabeth Cram
John Cloutier, Vice President	Katherine Welsh
Lisa R. Gosselin, Secretary	Marty Davis
Lynsey LaCourse, Treasurer	Mark White

1. **FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

Balance on Hand $17, 456.45

Transactions:

Credits	$893.99
-Interest paid	$ .39
-Stripe #1	$ 172.07
-Stripe #2	$231.53
-Deposit (BDWAB)	$490.00
Debit	
-Reimbursement	$296.01
Renee Mayer	
Santa Event	

New Members:

Whitney Skillen

Lynsey reported that we have to enroll with direct deposit for our Fidelity Charitable funds deposits before 7/1/26. We elected to go the route of ACH deposits so there are no fees associated.

2. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

-Marty Davis attended in Josh's absence. Marty reported that the FFL received a $10,000.00 grant from Carnegie Institute Foundation. These funds are eligible for all Carnegie Libraries still in existence.

-Marty reported that Mike is retiring as of April 17th. He was congratulated on his choice and he reported that the city is going to be working on replacing him. They are currently updating the job description. He was unaware of any process that has been initiated. Renee asked Mike to keep us apprised of any choices.

3. **MOU**

Started working on this in November of 2025. Renee asked Mike for his input on the draft. He offered some recommendations about eliminating the first three statements stating that he did not feel it was appropriate to ask those things of a director. Otherwise he said the rest seemed fine. Mike recommended that we wait to install it because a new director would want to have their input. Further discussion was tabled until the new director is here.

4. **TAX FILING**

The E post card is allowed for 501 C3 organizations with less than $50 K in their budgets. Mike feels that this could be done by Lynsey. A new Log-in would probably be needed. Lynsey will do this by the next meeting. She asked Renee for her assistance this first time. They will meet next Wed. the 11th to complete the filing.

5. **VALENTINES SOCIAL AND BDWAB**

   We raised $510.00 and the consensus was that we make this an annual event. Thanks was expressed to Elizabeth for staying late to open and lock up after the event. Renee recounted how great it was to work as a team to put it together; the wrapping party was fun for all and the baking and set up were a collaborative effort. Next year we could increase the # of books in an effort to raise more funds. Maybe aim for 100 books. All members are encouraged to start collecting books for the event next year. We all agreed there is not much else to change. Having done this project once, people in the community will know more about it and will be helpful in advertising for next year. The remainder of the books not sold will be displayed and sold at the Book Sale in April. In the future we will set a budget item for the costs of supplies for this FFFL event. This year all costs/items were covered by donations from Friends board and members.

6. **BOOK DRIVE RECAP AND INVENTORY**

   Three truckloads of books were collected on the 02/21 drive. Mark and Josh were able to transport them to Josh's house for storage. The Next drive is 3/7/26 from 10am -12pm. Katie, Lisa, Mark and Elizabeth will be volunteering.

7. <u>**BOOK SALE APRIL 10-11, 2026**</u>

-The books will be transported from Josh's house to the Library during the week before the sale. We will need several volunteers from the membership and officers to carry out this task.

-Promotion will be started soon, contacting other libraries, announcing in the City Newsletter, and on the Local TV Channel. Renee is creating flyers and will share them with Mark for posting before our next meeting.

- The times of the book sale will coordinate with the regular library hours. Fri.1:00PM - 5:00PM will be for current members and those wanting to become members. Saturday 9:00AM - 1:00PM will be for the general public during regular library hours. Volunteers would come earlier to be ready to go at their starting time. On Monday, 4/13, volunteers will return to break down the book sale. Volunteers can sign up at our next meeting. We will be thoughtful about shift adherence and have more people here to move books to the library early in week and to set up for the rest of the week. It was thought that we can have fewer volunteers at the sale.

-Pricing: There will be a table for more valuable books for special pricing. $TBD There will be a special table for the BDWAB books for a minimum donation of $10.00.   Book sorting and pricing will be done once the books are at the library. Differentiating between Mass Market books (smaller) 3/$1 Larger paperbacks should be the same as Hard Cover

$1 each. Kids Books: First book is free, $0.25/book after that. Separate Tables for each type of book: Kids, mass market paperbacks, larger paperbacks and Hardcover. For the Last   2 hours, patrons can fill a paperbag with books for $5.00, however we control the size of the bag. Items from the more valuable book table will not be available for this pricing.

<u>Tentative schedule</u> for moving, sorting and pricing books:
Monday 4/7: move books to library
Tues and Wed, 4/8 and 4/9, sorting and pricing.   Katie and Elizabeth.
Thursday organizing and Set up.
Friday morning: organizing and setting up.
Mark offered to go to the homes of people bringing books in large amounts prior to the Book Sale.

8. <u>FUNDING</u>

-CSBCC Scholarship: The Director of the CSBCC Scholarship asked the friends for a donation to their scholarship fund. We discussed this and our constitution states that we can only give funds in support of the FFL so we are unable to do this.

-Periodicals: Renee noted that the money allocated for periodicals in the library budget is earmarked but not always spent. She asked Mike about this because the FFFL had just appropriated $350.00 to the FFL for the purpose of renewing periodicals. Mike explained that the budget reflects what has been spent so far, but that other renewals are coming up and will be spent by year's end.

CSB grant: opening March 9th. When Renee asked Mike about how he could use these funds if awarded, he noted that he could use it to digitize the Library's Microfiche. He reported that he has about 600 rolls of microfilm newspapers needing to be digitized. He reports that it adds to online searchable database of Claremont Newspapers. Mike reports that he's already completed digitizing from 1840-1905. We use the same company to digitize, preserving Claremont history. Mike will figure out how much we need to do to finish that and we will write a request for CSBCC scholarship. There was a discussion as to if the FFFL matched the scholarship in an effort to complete the task of digitizing the microfische. Mike reports there are no other current needs at the library.

Author Visit: 3/25/26.   Elizabeth will have a flyer on Friday 3/6. and she will get a copy to Renee who will get it to Mark to post around town.

9. **<u>STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS RECAP.</u>**

Renee discussed our first and second Strategic planning sessions. After the first session, Lynsey had created a work book and checklist for the committee to use in creating a strategic plan. All agreed this would be extremely helpful. Unfortunately, Lynsey was unable to make the second meeting when we were going to initiate using the workbook, due to nasty weather on her drive back to Claremont from

Manchester, NH. The second session was nonetheless productive as the committee continued to brainstorm on planning and potential fundraising events. The
Strategic Planning committee reports that will hopefully be ready for fall, with an updated constitution, and potentially created By Laws. The committee discussed some metrics of success of fundraising events such as circulation numbers, and membership usage and involvement.

Strategic Planning next meeting: tabled until May, after book drive and new director comes on board.

10. **FRIENDS CONFERENCE WEBINARS**

-Sponsored by the Cornish friends

- being held at the Meriden Library and Renee circulated the schedule of the sessions. The first session is being held on Saturday, 3/21/26 at the Meriden Library. The Topic of the session is Strategic Planning. Any and all members are encouraged to attend. This is a generous offer from the Cornish Friends, as they paid for the series of sessions and are sharing the information with area Friends organizations at no charge.

The next mtg will be held on 4/1/26.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa R. Gosselin, Secretary