

FRIENDS OF THE FISKE FREE LIBRARY MEETING MINUTES 8/5/26

Meeting called to order at 5:25 pm

In Attendance:

Renee Mayer, President

John Cloutier, V President

Lisa Gosselin, Secretary

Lynsey Lacourse, Treasurer

Josh Reyes, Trustee Liaison

Elizabeth Cram

Marty Davis

Colin Sanborn, Interim Library Dir.

1. Current Financial Snapshot

Current Balance: \$21,702.87

Credits:

Stripe (X2) 18.82

Yard Sale Deposit 679.65

Interest .54

Debits:

Check #186 440.00

Check #186 530.00

Check #191 50.00

Encumbered Funds: 7,520.05

\$5000.00 for digitization

\$1245.05 Summer Reading

\$575 Center for Cartoon Studies

\$350.00 for Magazine Subscriptions

\$350.00 for the Tree in Mike's honor

TOTAL AVAILABLE BALANCE: \$13,882.82

2. INCOMING DIRECTOR UPDATE

Jim Allen will be starting on Monday, August 24th. The Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, September 17th at the Fiske Free Library from 4-6pm. We will be welcoming Jim and celebrating our Grant from the Savings Bank as well as National Library Card Sign-Up Month.

3. Thrill the World Announcement- Mary.

Mary brought the Friends the idea of participating in 20th annual Thrill the World dance event. She knew of no other sites that this was being offered in NH and felt it was an opportunity to highlight the FFL and Claremont by offering to coach it here. The details of this will be reported by Mary as the date gets closer, and the FFFL offered to get it going here.

4. Summer Reading Program and Events Updates

Martha reported the success of the Summer Reading Program noting the number of students who participated, the successful programming that attracted so many participants, what worked and what needs adjusting. All in all a very successful summer programming.

5. Book Barn Sale Recap

We made a smashing \$679.95 by participating in the city-wide Yard Sale sponsored by Sugar River Rotary. It was decided that we could do this on our own as well with the proper signage. The Friends discussed that we may want to do something like this more often because it required so little effort and brought so much reward of not only earnings, but also working through our stock of books from our storage supply at Josh Reyes' house. This is something we will revisit in the fall before the snow flies.

6. Back to School Festival. The Friends decided to not participate in this year's festival because we found that we were offering items that were duplicates of other offers. It was thought that the time and money could be better spent in other efforts

7. Appeal Letter update. A goal for sending this mailing was set for the week of October 18-24th which is the National Friends of the Library Week. Two renditions of the letter were highlighted: one for individuals and one for businesses/corporations. The business and corporations letter would give the businesses tiers of support to consider. At a certain tier, they would get a decal to post in their business that would indicate their level of support to the FFFL. All agreed this was a prudent measure.

8. Chili Cook Off Festival Saturday, October 3, 2026

As a group we decided to not participate in the Chili Cookoff competition, but we would have a booth there in an effort to show our community involvement and support. It was noted that we acquired a number of new members who signed up at the cook off last year. We didn't want to eliminate that opportunity and we all agreed that it would be a worthwhile event in which to participate.

9. Pie Sale Tuesday, November 24th.

It was decided by the committee that we would have a better financial outcome if we pre-ordered pies as well as having pies available at the sale. Many ideas were discussed and will be decided upon before the October meeting so we can begin advertising. This will require a succinct list of available pies as well as enlisting a significant # of bakers from our membership list. Discussions will continue at the September meeting.

10. Current Funding Requests or Needs.

None were reported this evening.

11. 2026 United for Libraries Virtual Friends of the Library Day

Renee offered the option of attending this virtually, at

<https://learning.afa.org/my/>

Login: friendsof the fiske@gmail.com

Password: Fisk3Fri3nds

Scroll down to courses and select the course

Keynote: From Connectors to Force Multipliers: How Trustees
Friends and Foundations Supercharge Civic Connection

GALA AUTHOR TEA

ON DEMAND VIDEOS

*Session 1 A National Model of Access: Learning from the National
Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) and Friends of
the Library Partnerships

*Session 2: Successful Online Sales for Friends of the Library
Fundraising

*Session 3: collaborative Leadership: Building More Agile and Resilient Friends Organizations

* Session 4: Supersize your Friends Group: Fundraising, Connections and Fun!!

Microlearning:

- Data Driven Library Advocacy Messaging
- March Meowness: A Viral Campaign Redefining Library Engagement
- Loveletters to a Library: A Ready-to-run Community Campaign that Generated More than 1,200 Stories of Library impact in 10 Days.
- Hosting a Friends Book Swap
- Celebrating National Friends of Libraries Week with Friends of the Moorhead Library

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm. Next meeting September 2, 2026 at the FFL at 5:15 pm