

Friends of the Cook Memorial Library Annual Meeting, September 29, 2019

Present: Jan Hamel, president; Annie Burke, treasurer; Kate Vachon, secretary; board members Marge Clothier, Sue Colten, Gail Maronne, Cathy Mersfelder, Louise Wroblecki; library director Mary Cronin; plus 15 additional members.

Jan called the meeting to order at 11:35.

Jan welcomed everyone, and expressed thanks to the board members and others who were unable to attend but have supported the library throughout the last year. She also thanked the library staff, noting that "They dream, and we support them." She also thanked everyone for their contributions to our various fundraisers and appeals.

She summarized the Friends' major activities: the Cabin Fever Book & Bake sale in the winter, and a plant sale and calendar raffle, in collaboration with Altrusa, in the early summer, are one-time fundraisers. The Friends' baby book bag program, also in collaboration with Altrusa, is run by Gail Marrone. The program supplies all new Tamworth babies with a selection of books. Jan encouraged the attendees to let Gail know about new babies. The Annex used book room sells used books on the first Saturday of each month, and earns a significant portion of the Friends' yearly revenue. Marge Clothier is in charge, with help from Cathy Mersfelder, as well as Charlotte Cooper and Rachel Anderson.

Jan also thanked Nate Winship, the current liaison with the Cook Library Board of Trustees, who keeps us up to date on what's happening at the library and where our help is needed.

Jan thanked the Friends' board for their hard work over the year, mentioning the officers, including Donna Whipple, who was not able to attend; Sue Colten, who handles our correspondence, Lin Frank, who is our plant sale chair in training, and Anne McGarity, who recently joined the Friends.

The minutes of last year's annual meeting were distributed. There was one amendment, to correct the name of Charlotte Cooper, which was mistakenly given as "Shawn." The amendment was proposed, seconded, and passed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended; the motion was seconded and passed.

Annie Burke presented the treasurer's report (attached). She noted that our bank balance AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR was \$12,034.22. Our fundraisers and appeals grew last year. A motion was made to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Annie also read the 2018-19 independent auditor's report submitted by Diane Robinson, who noted that all transactions were accounted for and the books are in balance.

Gail Marrone presented the nominating committee slate for 2019-20:

Jan Hamel, president

Donna Whipple, vice president

Annie Burke, treasurer

Kate Vachon, secretary

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented. The motion passed.

Library director Mary Cronin presented her wish list of items for the Friends to consider underwriting for the library (attached). She thanked the Friends for "giving us permission to dream big." Funding by the Friends decreases the amount that the library must ask the town for each year.

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Mary noted that the cost of downloadable books has gone up, and the availability has decreased recently, so that item is particularly important. Also on the list is funding for the popular Yoga for Kids program, and for the summer reading program. Staff development is another important item, along with supplies, particularly for the genealogy and history room. New this year is funding for “Memory kits,” which can be checked out and used to start conversations with family members in order to preserve their stories.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the portion of the wish list that the Friends will fund for the library. The additional items, which the Friends may purchase directly, will be considered at a later meeting.

Nate Winship thanked the Friends on behalf of the Cook Library Board of Trustees. He noted that the trustees welcome input to their overall budget decisions.

Jan reported that she attended a state-wide Friends and Trustees workshop, where the recent strategic plan that Mary and the trustees developed was offered as an example for the rest of the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon, and followed by a light luncheon and a talk by author Terry Farish about her experiences working with immigrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Vachon, secretary