

Friends of the Keene Public Library

Annual Meeting – May 13, 2020

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Board Members and Library Staff - Jill Cielinski, Marilyn Gemmell, Kathleen Kennedy Burke, Jan Manwaring, Sally Rinehart, Michelle Fuller, Paul Ledell, Marti Fiske, Dave Meader, Jen English, Gail Zachariah, Mike Chelstowski (*joined at 7:35 p.m.*).

Member Guests - Alan Stroshine, and Lou-Anne Beauregard.

Absent: Kathleen Chertok

President's Annual Report: Jill Cielinski provided the President's annual report, summarizing Friends activities for the past year. The full report will be posted the FKPL web page on the Library web site: <https://ci.keene.nh.us/keene-public-library/friends-keene-public-library>.

Slate of Officers and Directors: Jill read the full slate, which had been previously posted on the FKPL web page on the Library [web site](#) and was shared on-screen for review. *Sally Rinehart made a motion to accept the slate as presented. Dave Meader seconded the motion. All approved.*

Bylaws Revisions: The complete version of the revised bylaws had been available on the FKPL web page on the Library [web site](#). *Paul Ledell made a motion to accept the bylaws revision. Dave Meader seconded the motion. All approved.*

Secretary's Report: It was noted that any corrections or omissions regarding the secretary's report for the April 2020 meeting have been communicated directly to Kathleen Chertok. There were no other omissions or corrections noted. *Dave Meader made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mike Chelstowski seconded the motion. All approved.*

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Gemmell noted that the monthly and annual financial reports had been provided to board members prior to this meeting by email. In response to a question regarding museum passes, Marilyn advised she's been contacting museums to maintain relationships; many are extending our current memberships by a few months since most museums have been closed due to the pandemic. *Dave Meader made a motion to accept the financial reports. Paul Ledell seconded the motion. All approved.*

Marilyn provided the treasurer's annual report, summarizing finances for calendar year 2019. The full report will be posted the FKPL web page on the Library [web site](#).

Heberton Fund Annual Report: Paul Ledell provided the annual report of the Heberton Fund. The full report will be posted the FKPL web page on the Library [web site](#).

Finance Committee Report: Paul Ledell provided a report for the finance committee. The committee was unable to meet this spring due to COVID and the closure of the Library to the public. The planned review of current investments and investment policy will resume at a later date.

Library Director's Report: Marti Fiske provided updates about planning for when the Library may reopen to the public. The book return has opened and curbside service is slated to resume in late May. Some furloughed staff will begin to return to work in late May. Initial services provided as part of staged reopening may include remote printing and pickup, limited computer access, and browsing for materials to checkout. Exact services to be provided and timing of availability of

services are still being developed and will evolve in alignment with State and public health guidelines. Gail Zachariah provided an update on programming activities and planning.

Trustee Report: Kathleen Kennedy Burke advised that there is not an update at this time. The Trustees did not meet last month.

Book Sale Committee: The full annual report will be posted the FKPL web page on the Library [web site](#).

Membership/Annual Appeal Letter: Sally Rinehart noted that the annual appeal letter is typically sent in the summer but questioned if this is the right time for that appeal given current circumstances. Alan Stroshine suggested that, as some other non-profits are doing, it could be beneficial to stay connect with membership by sending a communication that acknowledges the current situation without including a firm ask. Jill recommended further discussion of this year's appeal at the June monthly meeting.

Mr. Gemmell's Reading with Ribby 2019 Program Report and 2020 Update: Jen English noted that 2019 was the 16th year of this program. The program continues to grow and expand to include both Keene and outlying towns. Approximately 1,100 students participated.

The 2020 theme was Thankfulness. Most of the presentations to schools had been completed prior to school buildings closing with the move to remote learning. Online submissions were used for students to complete the Reading with Ribby challenge. With the Swamp Bats season cancelled this year, there will not be the annual Reading with Ribby parade at a game. T-shirts are still be printed and will be distributed to student by mail or hand delivery.

Newsletter Committee: The Spring 2020 newsletter had been printed and was ready to mail, but once COVID hit the information contained in the newsletter was no longer relevant and the determination was made to not release this issue.

There was discussion of moving the newsletter to a digital format. Some items of consideration include potential loss of donations without a printed newsletter containing a donation form in each issue, the lack of an online donation method, and the timeliness of information conveyed in an e-newsletter versus a printed newsletter. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the June monthly meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Fall Book Sale: October 16-18, 2020

Upcoming meeting dates: 6/10/20
9/9/20, 10/14/20, 11/11/20, and 12/9/20