**Friends of the Library Annual Meeting:**

**Date of Meeting: July 20, 2021**

Present: Linda Cates, Betsey Church, Anita Flanagan, Donna Kidd, Brenna Kucinski, Susan Peery, Russ Thomas, Sarah Wilson

**Election of Friends of the Library Positions For The Coming Year:**

Anita moved that the following people be renewed in their current position.

Betsey Church for Treasurer

Sarah Wilson for Secretary

Donna Kidd for President

Susan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Donna moved that the following people be renewed as members at large for the coming year.

Anita Flanagan

Susan Hansel

Bert Wingerson

Russ seconded the motion and it and it passed unanimously.

**2020 Annual Friends of the Library Minutes**: Sarah read the 2020 minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Betsey reviewed the Annual Treasurer’s Report (see attached)

Jenna & Tyler Rich donated proceeds from one Saturday at their farm stand this past summer. The online fundraiser (held since we were unable to hold our annual book sale last August due to the pandemic) was very successful. Betsey sent thank you notes to all who donated.

**Librarian Report:** Although librarian Kris Finnegan was not present at the meeting, Susan Peery reported out on her behalf. The Summer reading program is happening, including some of it being online. Craft bags distributed to kids. The library received $2,756 through a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act, a grant which has been used to support the library in a few different ways (including the new picnic tables, the picnic table umbrellas, and shelving units for the Friends to organize books and supplies in the library lower level) The library will have an opportunity this coming fall to apply for a second round of funding from this organization. \*

**Disposal of Unwanted Books from previous book donations**: Donna and Sarah brought many boxes of unwanted books to the Keene dump after the last in-person (2019) book sale.

**Better World Books Process:** Heidi Tompkins scanned book titles of unwanted books from former book sale donations to Better World Books for consideration. She sent many boxes of books to them, which helped to deplete some of the stock of excess books. The minimal amount of proceeds from this project go directly to the library since this was not an initiative of the Friends. The process to send books to BWB has been discontinued.

**Covid Protocol for Space Use?** The group considered what protocols might need to be implemented as we return to using the lower library for preparations for the next book sale.

**Book Donations:** Book donations are not currently being accepted by the Friends. It was decided that for now we will focus on preparing the space with the current supply of books before we consider accepting new donations.

**LLL Cleanup:** The first date for starting the clean-up process for the lower level of the library will be Saturday, July 24th from 10 am to 12 noon. Additional weekday date options will be sent via email from Donna soon. Clearing an area for the new bookshelves, and assembling the 4 new bookshelves are the first two priorities. We have been asked to complete the shelf assembly project by August 1, and send a photograph to Kris to be shared with the ARPA grant organization. Once the LLL is cleaned up we will call another meeting to consider accepting donations at that point. Part of the clean-up process will include moving the Forum signs from the LLL to the rafters of the town shed behind the library. There is a corner of items in the back room that belongs to Kris that could possibly be culled a bit. Susan and Russ will bring this topic up with Kris at the next Trustees’ meeting – which is tomorrow.

**Possible Fall 2021 Book Sale:** The group discussed a possible (scaled down version of) a book sale in conjunction with the fall community art sale on Indigenous People’s Day (formerly Columbus Day) weekend. The sale could possibly be held outdoors with tables and tents, and perhaps have a focused theme of books to help keep the volume of books that would need to be moved outdoors to a manageable level. We need to plan for a possible sale, but be flexible to the conditions as the pandemic continues to be unpredictable.

**Saturday book sales**: The decision re: reinstating the monthly Saturday book sales is on hold.

**Dues and donations:** The group discussed holding a second online fund raiser this coming late fall. Announcements for the fund raiser could be sent to the email List of friends, posted in the Black Fly Newsletter, as well as on the Library web site. We can include a specific item we are hoping to raise funds for, as well as focusing on how important the library has been to the residents of Nelson throughout this pandemic.

**Friends of the Library Donations To the Library Discussion:** Possible ideas for donations to the library from the Friends included: Increasing our dollar donation for new books, assisting with the related costs for library programs, and a better camera for online programs. It will be helpful to hear from librarian Kris Finnegan as to how the Friends can be most helpful.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

\*Post Meeting Note: After the meeting, Donna communicated with Kris Finnegan via email, who informed Donna that she would send notes intended to be reported at the Friends meeting to her. Donna requested that Kris also communicate with the Friends regarding any items the library needs that the Friends might be able to help fund.