

The Friends of the North Hampton Public Library

Wednesday, May 17, 2017
North Hampton Public Library

President Cynthia Swank called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. In attendance were Jane Boesch, Donna Etela, Vicki Jones, Hope Miller, Nancy Monaghan and Jane Robie. Also attending was Jacquie Brandt.

The minutes of the April 19, 2017 were approved with one correction to identify the proper meeting place.

The treasurer's report was also approved, unanimously.

Craig Room Makeover

Nancy Monaghan reported that she met with Mr. Portrie regarding the trip hazard caused by the height of the floor outlet, and she asked him to take responsibility and fix it. She said we've had an electrician look at it, Mr. Portrie then said we needed a plumber, the plumber talked to the electrician and everyone agrees the problem is Mr. Portrie's. He reluctantly agreed to fix it, first saying he'd take his plumber and then that only the cap needs to be changed to reduce the height. Ms. Monaghan reported that it has been four weeks since she met with him and the work is still not done, and she will go to his store once again next week and report back. He is also committed to fixing the door, which is scraping on the floor. She suggested that if he doesn't take action after the next discussion that some sort of legal letter be drafted. Ms. Monaghan said she has no news on the status of the cabinet, as Ms. Grant is handling that.

Notecards

Ms. Swank asked if any notecards had been sold, but no one was sure and Librarian Susan Grant was not at the meeting to report. There was brief discussion of having a table out on Memorial Day to sell the cards while the parade and the 275th celebration draw people to the town complex.

North Hampton Public Library and Cultural Center Foundation

Ms. Swank said she did not recall The Friends having been asked to be the 501(c)(3) conduit for library building fund donations, but Hope Miller said she remembered it, and after looking into it, The Friends decided it wasn't a good idea. Several concerns about the Foundation were discussed briefly, including the fact they have held no meetings for more than a year and their paperwork filings appear to be well past due. Jacquie Brandt said the Library Trustees are looking into the matter. Jane Robie noted that the Foundation's podcast button on the Library website has no content.

Home Delivery

Brief discussion and questions about how The Friends volunteers' contact information should get to a master list was suspended because of Ms. Grant's absence.

Recruitment of new members/Newsletter/Marketing

Ms. Swank opened discussion of strategies to attract new members, which evolved into marketing discussions about how often the library is used. Both Donna Etela and Ms. Robie said people don't know the extent of the use of the library. Ms. Monaghan suggested regular mailings to residents promoting upcoming programs and events, She said she was surprised recently seeing statistics that Greenland's library, which is half the size of North Hampton's, has twice the number of visitors and many more programs. There was general agreement that people in the community don't know enough about the library.

Ms. Swank mentioned Constant Contact, a program for regular email communication with patrons, and she said The Friends' list of about 200 email addresses might be used. The quarterly newsletter was again discussed, with consensus that it should be mailed to homes as it once was. Ms. Swank suggested we might ask people to donate to pay for distribution, and she will get cost figures from the Treasurer for printing and mailing.

Trustee Alternates

Ms. Swank reported that at last week's Board of Trustees meeting there was further discussion about appointing alternates, which most other boards and commissions have. There was brief discussion about whether alternates should have a seat at the table even if they cannot vote. Ms. Etela said the Heritage Commission alternates sit at the table and take part in the discussions. Ms. Monaghan said alternates for the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals do not sit at the table unless they are tapped to sit in for an absent member. Ms. Swank invited people who are interested to apply to be an alternate. No one expressed interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m. **The next meeting is Wednesday, June 21 at 9:15 a.m. at the Library.**

**Minutes prepared by
Nancy Monaghan, May 19, 2017**