

KFL Friends Meeting Minutes 2/2/26

Attending- Alison Atkins, Asst. Library Director; Kat Boucher, Friends President; Andrea Carey; Michelle Conners, Library Director; Laura Dauphinais, Trustee; Lynn Eaton; Donna Gomez; Liz Hamel, Recorder; DD Harrington; Jean Irvine; Cynthia Kahn; Carol Kelleher, Sarah Lucchesi, Liaison to Trustees; Vicki Lyons, Trustee; Cheryl McCarthy; Peg Nelson; Risa Oganessoff Heersche, Friends Vice President; Julie Ottomano; Jim Perry, Trustee; Anita Randall, Development Director ; Diana Rush; Carole Varrano; Mary Violette; Ann Whetstone; Kate Wormwood; Deb Redding Sampson via zoom.

Guest- Leah Schaffer, Architect, Oak Point Associates.

Call to Order- 5:30 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions- Kat Boucher, KFL Friends President, introduced herself & asked the group to introduce themselves & state their role with the library. The leadership team is pleased to see such a great turnout of volunteers!

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes- Donna Gomez moved & DD Harrington seconded to accept the 11/3/25 minutes.

3. Old Business-

a. Book Sorting- Peg shared the book sorting process & new recruits; our three vendors- Kelly, Kevin (Giddyworms) & BWB (Better World Books) & their processes and profits. Kelly has sold two books for over \$100 each & four books over \$50 each for a total of \$900 from May-Dec 2025. Total profits for 2024= \$4114. Total 2025= \$4164.06.

b. Holiday Popup 2025- Donna Gomez & Diana Rush organized this event which netted \$222.50.

c. Membership- Renewal letters were intentionally sent out later this year on 1/13/26. Thus far, we have 45-50 members, more will be anticipated by the April 6 meeting.

d. Leadership 2026- The current leadership team is in place through Dec 2026 (2-year term). Kat & Risa are seeking volunteers to shadow leadership positions for the Jan 2027- Dec 2028 term. A couple of members have expressed interest. We encourage new participation for fresh ideas, perspectives, energy & talents!

e. 2026 Membership Drive- active online & in person at the circulation desk! The Friends welcome new members year round

4. New Business-

a. Book exchange at Arundel Town Hall- As KFL services Arundel as well, we are looking for opportunities to expand our outreach to Arundel residents. Judy Pitchfork, Trustee, has been in touch with the Arundel Town Manager, Keith Trefethen, who expressed interest in increased KFL presence in their town. Judy isn't present this evening, but Jim Perry shared that a KFL BOT volunteer with carpentry expertise is willing to construct a little library type structure this summer for the town hall to house books for free exchange on an ongoing basis. It would be located near the walkway to

the Arundel town offices. There will also be KFL Friends brochures to encourage new memberships from Arundel residents as well as a scannable QR code for donations directly to KFL. Our contact person would be the Town Clerk, Rachel Bull. Andrea Carey volunteered to help as well as several other members to assist with stocking the outdoor library. More information to follow at the April meeting. Michelle shared that of the 7,066 KFL card holders, 911 are Arundel residents.

b. **Library Updates-** Michelle shared that a press release is going out today re: the next chapter for the KFL.

- Anita shared the great news that \$67,826.84 was realized from 344 donors to the Holiday Giving Campaign, releasing the \$20,000 match generously offered by DD & George Harrington, the KFL BOT & an anonymous donor.

-The Kennebunk Resort Collection made a generous \$20,000 donation to KFL in January. Their area manager, Emily Nelson, came to meet with Anita & tour the library.

- Planning will soon be underway for the 29th annual 5K to be held 7/10/26. Weirs Motors will be the event sponsor. KSB will sponsor at the diamond level & will sponsor the online auction.

c. **Focus Group with Oak Point Architects re: KFL future-** Leah Schaffer, architect w/Oak Point Associates, was invited to the meeting to provide opportunities to KFL Friends members for their input into the renovation/expansion project. A community wide survey will be sent soon to solicit further input as well as a newsletter to the schools for a broad range of public input. The scope will include use of space; programming; necessary building updates; use of the recently acquired 1 Fletcher St building. Leah shared that 1 Fletcher is a center entrance home with a symmetrical front, two rooms on each side on the first floor with a center staircase. A feature of the building are some original hand-hewn timbers. The building has had rear additions over the years. It is not ADA compliant. It may be possible to remove the nonhistorical additions.

Current programming capacity of main library- Hanks room (lower level) = 35; Parsons Reading Room (upstairs) = 75.

A list of some suggestions elicited during this meeting follows-

- programming space with built in tech components
- increased storage space
- improve environment for document storage, collaborating with other document holders in town
- HVAC/energy efficient updates
- Private spaces for small meetings in person or via zoom for tutoring; job interviews, etc.
- dedicated book sale room
- Library of "things" space
- collaboration with KHS re: some off-site programming
- solutions for parking congestion. KFL owns the lot; 3 spaces are leased to the church.
- dedicated cat space/enclosure- particularly for allergic patrons. The cats have been a positive draw for the library.
- separate spaces for adult and children programming to prevent frequent moving of furniture and equipment.

Kat thanked Leah for coming & the group looks forward to offering further input via the surveys.

5. Book Sales & Other Events-

- a. May Day Book Sale- Sat, 5/2/26**
- b. Blueberry Festival Book Sale-Sat, 7/25/26**
- c. Seashore Trolley Museum Ice Cream Social- Wednesday, 7/29/26, time TBD**
- d. Arundel Heritage Day- Sat, 9/19/26, time TBD**
- e. Wreath Sale Preparation- Late Aug/Sept 2026**
- f. Harvest Book Sale- Oct 2026, date TBD**

Upcoming 2026 Friends Meetings- April 6, Aug 31, Nov 2.

Meetings are held 530-630pm at KFL or via zoom as needed.

Adjournment- Motion to adjourn by Sarah Lucchesi; meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Hamel
Recorder