

Attending- Michelle Conners, Library Director; Sarah Lucchesi, Liaison to Trustees; Diana Rush; Donna Gomez; Sara Ottomano; Andrew Cooke; Kat Boucher, Friends President; Risa Oganessoff Heersche, Friends Vice President; Gene Parr; Michele Butler-Parr; Vicki Lyons, Trustee; Kate Ostell, Trustee; Liz Hamel, Friends Recorder; Peg Nelson; Joan Carroll; Sue Patterson; Kathy & Bob Porter, Liaisons to Trustees; Julie Ottomano; Kate Wormwood; Tina Sharkey; Andrea Carey, Laura Dauphinais, Trustee; Anita Randall, Director of Development.

Call to Order- 5:30pm

1- Welcome & Introductions- Risa welcomed the group & everyone present introduced themselves.

2- Approval of Meeting Minutes 1/6/25- Peg motioned & Laura Dauphinais seconded; motion carried unanimously.

3- Old Business-

A- Book Sorting Committee Update- Peg shared that Giddyworm & Better World Books continue to accept books. Donations of excess books including large print are delivered to Huntington Common, Goodwill & others. Operation Paperback, a nonprofit organization, continues to collect books to be sent to military service members.

A suggestion was offered by a member that Bake Maine on Rt 1 & Carpe Diem in N Berwick have bookshelves where books may be donated.

B- Membership Update- Michelle shared that the library has recorded a total of 64 Friends members; 12 new members joined at the March Friends only sale.

C- March Mad Hatter Book Sale- Peg reported that the feedback was positive from the members who attended; the format was easier as sales were held primarily from the sorting room; there was poor attendance from 5-7pm prompting the suggestion to consider changing the hours to 2:30-5:30p going forward. \$242 in sales were achieved & \$105 raised toward membership. The group overwhelmingly supported continuing this sale on an annual basis.

4- New Business-

A- May Day Book Sale & Parade- Sat 5/3/25. Peg has sent an email for volunteer sign-ups for set up shifts on Friday 5/2 & day of sale shifts on Sat. Michelle shared that the Public Relations & Events Committee of the Trustees will meet tomorrow to discuss the parade held on 5/3. The suggestion was offered that the parade at 1pm so the book sale will have concluded & members may then participate in the parade if they choose to. (The town has announced that the parade will start at 1:30pm).

B- Library Updates- Michelle noted there have been tech upgrades with a new firewall for data protection & the launch of a new website.

This week is National Library week; Tuesday 4/8 is Library Workers Day. Please thank our friendly librarians when you see them!

On Wednesday, 4/9 Michelle will head to Augusta for Library Legislative Day & will attend the Library Services meeting.

KFL has not been directly affected by federal government cuts, but the state library system has been.

C- Spring Appeal- Anita Randall shared that the library fundraiser previously was held annually but is now held two times per year, so the name has been changed to more accurately convey the spring appeal. The second fundraising opportunity is holiday giving in December.

Anita shared that Sarah Thompson, admin. assistant, organizes volunteer efforts for stuffing envelopes for this large mailing (4000). A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting & will be sent online soon for volunteers to assist with this effort. An additional email appeal will be sent to approximately 7000 people in the community. The volunteer participation in this mailing effort lowers the cost to KFL by providing the labor free of charge. A member asked about opportunities to volunteer after 4pm & Michelle will check with Sarah who is heading this project.

D- 5K Road Race Fundraiser- Anita also shared that sponsorships are being sought for the 5K road race to be held Friday, 7/11/25 and are already ahead of 2024 efforts at this time. This is the largest fundraiser of the year. Approximately 60 volunteers will be sought for the event. An email will be sent announcing the event & seeking participation.

5- Book Sales & Other Events-

A- May Day Sale- 5/3/25

B- Blueberry Book Sale- 7/26/25

C- Harvest Fest Book Sale- date TBD

D- Arundel Heritage Day- 9/13/25.

Sarah Lucchesi shared that KFL has been invited to participate in Arundel's Heritage Day by offering book/media sales. The Friends leadership team have previously discussed this project which will provide a wonderful opportunity for community outreach to Arundel & we have offered our willingness to participate in this new event. There is a \$20 entrance fee & Judy Pitchforth, KFL Board Member has generously offered to pay our admission fee. The event is held outdoors & is cancelled in the event of rain. Sarah will provide more information as it becomes available.

E- Other Events- Seashore Trolley Museum Wednesday fundraiser- 8/20/25. Laura Dauphinais shared that the Seashore Trolley Museum participates in the Worthy Wednesday fundraiser programs which benefit local nonprofits. Friends' volunteers will be sought to serve ice cream at this fun event & will receive a reduced entry fee for the trolley ride. 50% of the evening's ticket sales will benefit KFL for this event.

Additional comments-

Vicky Lyons shared that the Friends benefit the library greatly contributing approximately \$8000 annually to: children, teen & adult programming; providing the museum passes; providing the monthly publication *The Book Page*; providing Kanopy, the video streaming service and many other non-monetary contributions in hours volunteered for many library projects.

6- Adjournment- Donna motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Hamel

Recorder