

FRIENDS OF THE FISKE FREE LIBRARY MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 5:15 PM

LOCATION: FISKE FREE LIBRARY

ATTENDANCE:

Michael Grace, City Librarian

Renee Mayer, Chair

John Cloutier, Vice Chair

Lisa Gosselin, Secretary

Lynsey Lacourse, Treasurer

MEMBERS/GUESTS

Elizabeth Cram

Marty Davis

Sandra Seebers

Renee called the meeting to order with a review of tonight's agenda asking for any additions or corrections. Minutes of the August 6th meeting were distributed to those in attendance, and Renee asked if there were any additions or corrections. None were noted.

Old Business

1. Lynsey Lacourse, the incoming treasure, and Renee met with Michael Grace to discuss the transfer of treasurer

duties to Lynsey from Marta, the previous treasure. Lynsey reported that the FFFL account Balance on 7/31/25 was: \$16,165.84. She also reported that the following invoices from the 2025 Summer Children's programming were paid:

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| VINS | \$ 260.00 |
| Book sale Flyers | \$ 17.50 |
| Appeal Letters | \$ 32.50 |
| Mariposa | \$ 304.60 |
| Mr, Aaron | \$ 440.00 |

The new Balance (Estimated) \$15,111.24

Lynsey stated that the balance is estimated because she has not seen the books as yet because the official transfer has yet to take place. This is being completed at the Claremont Savings Bank in the near future. Renee also noted that an additional \$ 650.00 not reflected in the current balance, was received from the appeal letter that was mailed to our list of previous donors in May. Marty stated that his review of this list revealed many people didn't have emails on the list, making future appeals difficult. Renee agreed stating that that list also had many prior donors who didnt respond to the appeal letter. She noted that an effort to update the list for responders and their emails was needed. She also noted that we had 90 new members from the appeal letter and book sale.

2. Summer Reading Program Recap

The Children’s Librarian, Martha, reported on the participation for the Summer reading programs.

| Date | Program | Attendance | Cost |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------------|
| 6/24 | Marek Bennet Comics | 30 | \$480.00 |
| 7/15 | A Universe of Rainbows | 7 | \$150.00 |
| 7/24 | Mr Aaron Dance Party | 45 | \$440.00 |
| 7/29 | Ready Reader One | 35 | unknown |
| 7/30 | Michael Caduto Energy Rocks | 15 | \$376.00 |
| 8/4 | VINS | 60+ | \$260.00 |
| 8/12 | Mariposa Museum | 26 | \$304.60 |
| Totals | | 218 | \$2010.60 |

Martha noted that the Marek Bennet Comics program would have been better attended but traffic in town was hampered by the VietNam Wall of Remembrance arriving that day. Martha noted that the “Ready Reader One” program had some additional expenses for beverages, baked goods, Wades Gift Certificates and possibly other costs. She also reported that the VINS program was attended by an “overflow crowd” and that VINS gave us a \$100.00 discount on this program. It was reported that this is a program that is always well attended.

3. Back to School Festival

It was an overall successful outcome, we had a lot of interest in our program. Lynsey asked if we had seen any kids come in for library cards, and Renee noted she will investigate that. It was noted that we distributed about 200 folders and that our Member, Mark White who was working our booth with Jesse and young Martie Mayer, had purchased an assortment of colored pencils, crayons and pencils to put in the folders. Leftover supplies were returned to Renee for use at future events.

Renee reported that the purpose of us sponsoring is to provide opportunities to get children and families into the library to attract interest in our library. We will use the \$200.00 cost to better estimate our budget for 2026.

4. Claremont Chili Cook Off Saturday October 4, 2025

Mark White was not in attendance to give us our update so Renee will check in with him to talk details.

She thinks that we need to create a schedule to make the chili and work the booth.

We agreed to use Mark White's recipe, since it has won in the past. Renee will contact Mark to put together a list of ingredients .

Lyndsey and Renee will work together to put a sign up for our Website to bring ingredients to the library with specific ingredients and amounts . Then those who volunteer to make the chili can pick up their non-perishable ingredients at the Library. A discussion on the potential cost of Perishable ingredients revealed that a \$200.00 budget should cover the

cost of meats. This was moved by John Cloutier, seconded by Renee, and passed unanimously.

Our overall Booth theme is Reading Benefits, and people who are working are going to dress as a character in their favorite book or to wear anything that promotes the benefits of reading.

Awards for decorations are offered by the Claremont Chamber of Commerce. Discussion was held about how we will decorate. It was decided that the \$200.00 Budget should cover food and decoration needs.

It is thought that we are all set with equipment but we'll finalize that at the 10/1 meeting.

We will Need 3 shifts to cover the 10:00 - 3:00 pm festival. The three shifts would be set up, manning the booth and clean up shifts. This will be finalized at the 10/1 meeting.

We were all in agreement that participating in the Chili Cook Off is a great way to build awareness of our rejuvenation of the Friends of the Fiske Free Library organization. This festival is one of the Biggest Citiwide programs put on by the Chamber of Commerce and is extremely well attended.

An initial call for volunteers was made and the following members will work at the booth: Mark White, John Cloutier, Sandy Seebers, Elizabeth Cram, Lisa Gosselin and Renee Mayer. Volunteers to make chili: Lynsey Lacourse, Lisa Gosselin, Renee, Mark White. Renee reported she will be putting this call out to the membership list by email.

5. Cookbook fundraiser had nothing new to report

6. Pie Sale: we will talk more about at the next meeting. It will be held on 11/25 and we need lots of pies to sell!!

7. Memorandum of understanding is a procedural document between friends' organizations and libraries. This clearly delineates responsibilities and expectations of our relationship with the library. Renee reported that most friends' organizations have one in place and she passed out a copy of one issued by National Library Assn

We will be creating such a document for the Friends of the Fiske Free Library over the course of the year.

8. NHLTA convention Saturday 9/27/25 in Hooksett, NH. Renee is going, Elizabeth will try to register. Renee reports that this is a meeting specific to Friends of Libraries and other friends organizations for organization and constitution developments. Lisa Gosselin reported that it would be interesting to see if there are any collaborative organizations of other Friends associations. She noted at the Book Fair that it was attended by other organization members looking for ideas and inspiration from our book sale. It may be helpful to collaborate on fundraising and other projects as well. Food for thought, and reason for investigation. Lisa is unable to go to the NHLTA meeting but Renee noted she would see if anything is established there and if not Lisa will investigate establishing a county wide or region wide collaborative.

9. School Budget Crisis.

Renee asked Mike about any impact of this crisis being felt by the library. He reports that there is NO formal relationship between the FFL and the School system, but they have collaborated in the past on projects that benefit children. Mike reports that we can't favor public schools over home schoolers and private schools in the area, by giving financial support. He reports that we know very little and until we know more, we should be patient and wait for the schools to reach out. It was agreed that the FFFL would be necessary to support the Library rather than the school library system directly. It was agreed by the membership that it was premature to plan anything until more information is made public.

New Business:

1. Renee, Lynsey and Mike Grace will be meeting to discuss the libraries needs for meeting national and state regulations.

Next meeting will be October 1st, 5:15.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa R. Gosselin, Secretary of FFFL