

FRIENDS OF THE FISKE FREE LIBRARY
Meeting Minutes 10/1/2025

Meeting was called to order:at 5:15PM by Renee She reports that Meeting minutes will be sent with the agenda for each month's meeting and a copy will be available at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Balance: \$15,854.68

Transactions in September 2025:

Debits

\$400.00 Rattlebox Studios (CK# 114)

\$ 40.00 Rattlebox Studios (CK# 121)

\$304.60 Mariposa (CK# 118)

Credits

\$ 48.25 Stripe Transfer

\$685.00 Membership

\$ 0.40 Interest Accrual

Lynsey reports that she has finalized her status with the bank as the treasurer of FFFL. Mike will set up Lynsey for the stripe system so that she can run reports and administer data for funds acquired from our website.

Chili Cook Off Saturday October 4, 2025

Mark White has organized the making of the chili at his house Friday night, October 3rd at 5:30pm until completion of making 10 gallons of chili. He reported receiving a large box of vegetables

from the Winter St Farm, including tomatoes, peppers, both sweet and hot, and based on the donations he felt we would only need to purchase some more beans, cumin, chili powder, tomato paste, beef broth and balsamic vinegar. Renee reported that we received a \$25.00 gift card to Hannafords from a member and a check for \$30.00 from Stephanie Davis to use to defray the cost of the needed supplies. We had set a budget of \$200.00 which should be plenty to cover our costs.

We have a 6 ft table to decorate, we'll have flowers and book decorations. Renee and Jesse and Marty are dressing as Little House on the Prairie family, Lynsey is going as Miss Frizzle and her husband is Frankenstein, Mark is going to be a cowboy. Set up will begin at 9:00 am. Mark needs people to bring cutting boards and knives for chili preparation on Friday night, as well as crock pots to keep the chili warm at the festival. He also asked for a sauce pan or large measuring cup for refilling.

PIE SALE

The FFFL Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale will be held on Tuesday 11/25/25 from Noon - 6:00 pm. We will accept pie donations on the 24th or from 11:00 am -12:00 pm on the 25th. A discussion decided that we will not do presales, just promoting well in advance. Renee and Elizabeth reported that we had no leftovers at the last sale which was in 2023. We will be selling pies and baked goods. Renee needs list of bakers to call and was going to compile this from a list of thank yous written to the pie bakers in 2023. Elizabeth has offered to call them from the library. Renee reports that we could advertise on FB on What's Up Claremont as

well as our FB page and website. We will post the sandwich board in front of the library beginning November 17th. Renee will create the FB advertising post. There will be a sign up to bake pies in early November.

NHLTA Gathering:

Renee and Elizabeth attended the NHLTA (New Hampshire Libraries Trustee Assn) at Hookset Library on Saturday the 27th of September. There were about 35 people in attendance, all of whom were Friends from community libraries all over the state. Topics included fundraising: how to raise money, how to determine projects to spend it on, and Insurance. Determining if we need insurance for programming offered outside of the library. Our status as a non-profit organization is due for renewal. Other topics included establishing foundations vs Friends groups for libraries. Foundations usually are established for larger projects like building additions and capital improvements. People would make donations to the foundation for use on such a project. Friends organizations are generally used for supporting events, programming, and smaller library needs outside of community budgets. Renee reported that she and Elizabeth had really enjoyed the meeting, the spirit and enthusiasm that many organizations brought was contagious and she noted some mentoring from some of the larger organizations offered for smaller, newer organizations. She reported that the organizers will send us a list of all attended and contact info for the purpose of sharing information.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Needs at FFL:

Mike reported that the Library is currently in the process of digitizing our local newspaper archive. He noted that we received a grant for \$1000.00 and he projected he'll need another \$900.00 to complete the project. He will write a formal request to the FFFL for funds for this purpose and submit it for the next meeting to be voted upon.

Fundraising ideas after the Pie Sale:

Lynsey: Wreath fundraiser

Community members make wreaths celebrating different themes. Claremont Citizens come in to see them, vote on their favorite and raffle them off or sell them. The membership felt this sounds like a great idea, and we should start organizing in the Spring for December of 2026. Many thought this may be held at the Community Center, due to the traffic of people in and out of there. Also may be something to attract people to the Library.

Blind Date with a Book - February 2026.

People will pay to get a decorated bag with a book inside to enjoy. It was discussed to do this around Valentine's Day. And do we do it as a fundraiser or just an event? We may be able to host it here at FFL.

Elizabeth: Pictures with Santa: The Night Before Christmas reading for local children.

Pictures with Santa and or the Grinch We would have to figure out how we are taking Pictures, and also if it's too late to get the "Real Santa" This idea was well received and had a lot of energy discussing how we could make it work. Not sure if we can do this year but Elizabeth will check on Real Santa's availability.

Partnering with a local restaurant

We choose a restaurant to partner with to advertise our organization and the restaurant. In return we get a % of revenues during an agreed upon time. Some restaurants discussed included: Barn Cafe, Chipotle, Daddy's, Ramuntos. FFFL would promote eating at a particular restaurant and advertise that folks would be supporting the library by going to the restaurant. Tremont House of Pizza should be first because they are already Friends members.

Renee reported that the MOU will be discussed at greater length at the next meeting. We will also discuss creating ByLaws.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa R Gosselin