FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held July 9, 2026

Board members present: Allegra Wright, Estelle Lafleur, Candy Murphy, Sally Fitzgerald, Norma St. John, Hilary Veilleux

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order: 5:32

Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2026: Norma made a motion to accept the June minutes as written; Hilary seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The budget currently shows a balance of $13,621.83. Norma explained that she uses ~~seed money~~ her BJ's card to pay for BJ's purchases for the Shack, and then reimburses herself. This is shown on the transaction report. She said that by week four of the concerts, the Friends are usually in the black. Estelle made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Candy. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Velocireader: Laura reported the Velocireaders are being checked out. Staff is making sure adults understand the requirement of posting photos and believes people are getting better at this.

Yankee Humor fundraiser:

Candy updated:

1. Norma has paid The Rocks $250, the final payment for the room rental
2. Curt Brown has volunteered to pick up and return the library chairs on the day of the event. He will need to be told that the meeting room is in use until 11:30 that day, and chairs will need to be picked up after that is over.
3. Five tickets have been sold so far. Candy will continue to get the word out, and let people know that they can mail in payment and get tickets mailed to them.
4. Door prizes donated: BPI donated a $50 gift card to Little Village Toy & Book Shop; Candy donated the book *The Story of Franconia Notch* by Daniel Heyduk and a $25 gift card to Starbuck's. There was discussion of getting more door prizes and whether they should be singular or all put into one prize basket. It was decided that these three prizes were enough, and there will be three single door prizes so more people have a chance to win.
5. Candy asked if the Yankee Humor flyer could be put on the library's website. Laura said the flyers on the home page were for library programs. But she will find somewhere on the site to put it.

Day on Main: Allegra says this was a fabulous success. They gave out many info bags and told people they were looking for volunteers. The Friends thanked Kami the dinosaur for making an appearance; it drove visitors to the table.

Vacant board positions: it was reiterated that the need for a Secretary ASAP and a Treasurer is critical. Everyone should be asking around for people to take over these positions.

Pollinator Garden clean-up: Hilary has weeded the garden and purchased plants for the newest area. Heavy mulch is helping keep weeds down.

Book Sale: The library offered members of the Friends first shopping the night before the sale began. Unfortunately, no one attended. All felt this is a good perk to offer and should be done again next year.

Partner of the Month (POM) at Littleton Coop: The POM fair is the week after the Yankee Humor show. Preparing for this is a big undertaking. September 8th is primary voting and a bake sale. Members felt that with these two events competing for their energy, that the Friends postpone applying for POM until next year. But next year, effort and organization should be done months in advance.

New Business:

Grill: Chris McGrath approached Lowe's to see if they would donate a new grill, but was not successful. Both grills work currently, but are getting older. Estelle asked if the innards of the grill could be replaced, and perhaps a store would donate the parts more willingly than an entire grill. Candy said that she would get the name of the Tractor Supply Manager and give it to Allegra to follow up regarding a grill donation.

Snack Shack: Norma gave an update on helpers. She is all set with chefs/grillers. She needs volunteers for the sundae tent; three people are needed each week (one for scooping, one for toppings and one to take the cash). The sundaes alone made $150 last week, so it is very busy. She also needs brownie bakers; each week needs two 9x13 pans of brownies baked, cut up, and delivered. If anyone can help, contact Norma.

Pavilion update: Laura reported that Navarra's has been chosen to do the landscaping work to make the pavilion area safe and usable. Their cost is $5184. Laura acknowledged that the Friends made a sizeable donation toward the pavilion building, but asked if there was any amount that they could donate to help offset the landscaping cost. Hilary made a motion to give $2000, seconded by Estelle. There was discussion about lesser amounts to donate and what expenditures the Friends need to cover in the next few months. Vote: 5 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.

Laura will talk with the contractor to ensure that the culverts will not be accessible to children by modifying size of opening or installing screen.

Brochure: The QR code on the back of the new brochure links to the library's old website. It needs to be updated and new brochures printed for both the library and the shack. Laura volunteered to make the new QR code and update brochure if the Canva file can be sent to her. Estelle said that she would talk with Chelsea about getting the Canva file sent to Laura.

Next meeting: Reminder the August meeting cannot be held in the meeting room on the first Thursday, as it is in use for a program. The meeting is rescheduled for the following week:

Thursday, August 13th 5:30pm.

Meeting adjourned 6:37pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Clerkin