FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held August 13, 2026

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

Members present: Ellen LaRose

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order: 5:36

Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2026: One edit to clarify that Norma uses her BJ's card to pay for Snack Shack supplies. Hilary made a motion to accept the July minutes with the edit; Norma seconded. The motion passed, with Sue abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: The budget currently shows a balance of $12,398.34. There were three new members this month, including Ellen LaRose. The library landscaping donation was also made. Hilary made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Sue. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Yankee Humor fundraiser:

Ticket sales have been slow; 42 ticket sales are needed to break even. A new flyer was made with a QR code that takes people to the web page with the ticket information. That way, when we can accept credit cards, we don't have to make a new flyer, just edit the web page.

Discussion ensued about the likelihood of breaking even. The storytellers (Rebecca Rule and Fred Marple) each receive $100 for transportation plus ¼ of the ticket sales, or a $300 minimum. There were questions of at what point could we cancel the event and not lose money. The Rocks contract stipulates two weeks for cancellation. Candy wrote to Fred during the meeting to ask about cancellation since there is no formal written contract.

Sally made a motion that, if the storytellers allowed with no penalty, that the Yankee Humor event be cancelled today. Candy seconded. Motion passed 6 yes, 1 no. Laura thanked Candy and Sally for all their hard work on this event.

Candy then received a reply from Fred before the meeting adjourned. He and Rebecca agree to the cancellation with no penalty. They also were open to trying an event with us another time.

A list was compiled of people who had already purchased tickets so that the monies could be refunded.

Littleton Chamber of Commerce: Candy asked the status of this. It is still in the works.

New Business:

MascomaPay: Looking into ways to accept credit cards for Yankee Humor, but also for membership fees and Snack Shack food, we found that Mascoma Bank has a product, MascomaPay. Allegra, Sue and Laura met virtually with Mascoma to learn about this; then Allegra and Norma went to the bank for a meeting.

MascomaPay has a card reader to use; this is a $249 value that the bank will give to the Friends for no charge. Since there is no wi-fi at the Shack, we would have to purchase a data plan for $35/month. But the cost is pro-rated by day for occasional use; we would be charged by the day when we turn it on. For example, if it was only used at the Shack, we would be charged the number of Sundays the card reader was in use. Norma is wondering about a time frame and how to set this up. Allegra and Laura agreed to do the set up. There is also the ability to set up online for items such as membership or event tickets and create a QR code. This would be similar to the current PayPal configuration.

Grill: the Friends thank Candy for requesting the new grill from Tractor Supply.

Bake Sale: the NH Primary voting is Tuesday, September 8th. There will be a bake sale.

Board Announcement: Hilary is stepping down from the Friends board, effective at the next annual meeting. The Friends thank her for all she has done for the board and the library over her many years of participation.

Meeting adjourned 7:20pm

Next meeting: Thursday, September 3rd 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Clerkin