

FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held March 6, 2025

Board Members present: Norma St. John, Sue Presby, Connie Johnson, Kay Kerr, Hilary Veilleux, Estelle LaFleur

Friends Members present: Candy Murphy

Guests present:

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order 5:34pm

December 5, 2024 FOBPL minutes: Norma motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Sue. All in favor.

Treasurer's report: The CD current balance is \$9,544.40, the second CD balance is \$4,274.20, and the checking account current balance is \$11,565.97, for a total of \$25,384.57.

Sue motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Kay. All in favor.

Old Business

Christmas Ornaments, final update (Allegra or Sue) - The report is deferred to next month. Norma shared that approximately \$2,900.00 has been received with another \$280.00 is in process. Hilary suggested that we research alternative ornament suppliers at a lower cost. Other comments from the group were that the ornament look a bit more Christmasy to appeal to more people, find other avenues to sell them, i.e. craft fairs, etc. This will need more thought and additional discussion.

Children's Christmas Party – The party went well and the crafts were well-received. Lots of fun was had at all the stations.

Gingerbread House contest, update – There were only three submissions this year. All three entrants received prizes.

New Business

Bake Sale March 11th – This is the only bake sale this year. Soup, chili, rolls, and baked goods will be available. Hilary shared the schedules for set-up on Monday and for staffing the Bake Sale on Tuesday.

Connie has stepped down from the Board but will remain as a member of the Friends.

Librarian report –

- 1) Juliet Born email – she and other Main Street businesses are trying to organize an event in Bethlehem on June 7th between the gazebo and the Town Offices to line the street with various businesses called Bethlehem Main Street Day. The library/Friends were invited to participate. More information will be provided. Hilary asked that everyone brainstorm possible ideas.

- 2) Library Park Pass - valid for two adults and four dependents for \$105.00 allowing people to go to many locations around the state. This pass is valid for the calendar year. Folks would check out the Pass for one day and the library would facilitate it once a request has been made. Estelle motioned that the Friends purchase a pass for the library and Norma seconded. All in favor.
- 3) Laura and her team are working on the Summer Reading Program. Laura asked that the Friends support the finale entertainment and ice cream. More information, including costs, will be provided at a future meeting.
- 4) Pavillion – Laura has been working on a grant for a 20'x26' structure consisting of a cement pad, wooden posts, single gable roof with asphalt shingles, wood ceiling at a cost of approximately \$30k to \$35k . Laura wrote a grant for \$15K, the max amount, to ARSL, the Association of Rural and Small Libraries. She will hear results after April 9th. Laura will reach out to the town to see learn process to get approval to build the structure.

Sue made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Connie. The meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 5:30pm.