

FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held May 7, 2026

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

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order at 5:34

April 2, 2026 FOBOPPL minutes: Sally motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Candy. With no additions or corrections the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's report: Norma presented the monthly report. The final check for the pavilion was paid. CD is coming due and Norma will transfer to the checking and. She will set up new CD once she finds the most favorable rate. Candy motioned to approve the treasurers report. The motion was seconded by Sally. With no additions or corrections the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Pavillion update: Laura reported that the pavilion is almost finished. Work was being done on hate ceiling and the electrical. She submitted her report to support the pavilion grant on April 30th. Norma brought up the issue of potential porcupine damage to the posts and if anything was being done to prevent that occurring. She reported that Bretzfelder Park had to replace the posts due to this issue. Laura was going to inquire about this.

Traveling Velocireader update: Laura reported that she has only seen 2 posts on the Facebook page since March. Discussion then centered on whether people are borrowing the Velocireader and simply not posting pictures form their adventure. We need to try to remind people to share their stories. Although the second grade at Bethlehem had borrowed a Velocireader when Laura asked a student about what it was doing with their class the student didn't know anything about it. Laura was going to bring it up with the teacher on the next library visit.

Laura also gave an update on the museum pass donation from the Friends. The Fairbanks Museum Household Pass arrived. It will be for the 2027 calendar year. The decision was made to use the pass as a prize for the Summer Reading Program. As for the \$1000 donation from the Friends she is in touch with different museums to see the costs and what programs seem the best fit for the library

Rocks Speaker event update: Candy updated the group on where things stand right now. She bought a copy of the Courier to show articles about the Littleton Friends Annual event and also a Lisbon Library event. She was hopeful that they would do a press release for our event. Laura explained that we need to write our own press release for any of the local papers. We will work on that. The group came up with a list of places to advertise with our poster.

Libraries, newspapers, book stores, school libraries, WLTN, the Rocks

Candy reported that she followed up on the Rocks event being advertised on the Mascoma Bank sign. Mascoma said no. The cost is \$150 which gives you the sign 2 weeks prior to your event every year. It has to be the same 2 weeks every year and same date for the event. This didn't work for our purposes. The actual booking of the sign is through Foto Factory.

Candy then brought up an issue that she and Sally had just become aware of. They had visited the Rocks and luckily it was set up for an event. With the set up being the same as ours there were a total of 115 chairs not the 150 represented to us. The chairs at the Rocks are also larger than most event chairs. With the loss of chairs the total potential revenue went from \$4500 down to \$4025. This was having a ticket price of \$30. A discussion was had about potentially changing the venue to The Colonial. Candy thought we would be able to get our deposit returned if we did change. Further discussion was had about using a combo of library and Church chairs instead of the chairs from the Rocks. There were 10 chairs per row at the Rocks. Laura offered to measure 10 library chairs and Norma offered to measure 10 chairs at the Church.

The next part of the discussion was about tickets. This centered on whether it would be all online tickets with a QR code, a hybrid of paper tickets and online tickets, or only paper tickets. After much back and forth the ultimate decision was none of the above. There will be no tickets but we will create basically a "will call" list. Admission to the event will be available for sale at the Gazebo Concerts. Purchases are by cash or check only. Someone will be at the door at the event checking people in from the list. Candy motioned that admission to the Rocks event on September 12, 2026 be by cash or check to be added to a "will call" list. The motion was seconded by Sally. The motion was passed unanimously.

Second Brainstorming session: Due to limited attendance at this month's meeting this discussion was tabled until next month.

Bethlehem Day on Main: Date is Saturday June 6, 2026. The Friends will be set up at Legacy Books once again. Sue would order dinosaur gift bags, gummies and stickers for the bags. Laura reported that she purchased a dinosaur costume for the summer reading program and after talking to Cami at our meeting she agreed to wear the costume and be with us at Legacy Books.

At our June Meeting we will stuff the bags with the gummies, stickers along with library info, Friends into and current info about the event at the Rocks in September.

During this discussion Candy brought up the recommendation from Estelle that we join the Littleton Chamber. After a brief discussion Sally motioned that we join the Chamber. The motion was seconded by Candy. The motion was passed unanimously

Secretary and Treasurers vacancy: Allegra reminded everyone that the secretary's position needs to be filled immediately. Norma is creating a list of her duties for both treasurer and for the Gazebo Concert prep. Once we have that info we will start actively looking for the best fit.

Littleton Co-op Partner of the month: A brief discussion was held about getting the word out to get people to vote for us. We also discussed how to make our display and materials noticeable and memorable.

New Business

Snack Shack clean up: Norma will start contacting people once she gets the schedule for the summer.

Pollinator Garden clean up: Hilary was absent so this discussion was tabled.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sally and Seconded by Candy. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:14

Submitted by: Sue Presby