

FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held August 7, 2025

Board Members present: Norma St. John, Sally Fitzgerald, Sue Presby, Allegra Wright, Hilary Veilleux, Estelle LaFleur

Friends Members present: Candy Murphy

Guests present:

Librarian present:

Meeting called to order 5:30pm

June 5, 2025 FOBPL minutes: Sue motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Sally. All in favor.

Treasurer's report: The CD current balance is \$9,707.94, the second CD balance is \$4,326.44, and the checking account current balance is \$11,835.98, for a total of \$25,870.36.

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

Old Business

Bethlehem Event June 7 recap – Many people came by despite the rainy weather and lots of bags were given out on that day. All agreed it was a successful day.

Follow up Pavilion – Laura – Things are moving along. She is waiting for final approval from one of the grants and has sent out requests for proposals.

Pollinator Garden – The garden looks good. There are many butterflies and bees visiting the garden.

Podium update – Norma – She has been in touch with the contractor to complete the repairs. It requires some redesign and will take some time to complete, but once the first is done, the rest should go quickly.

Summer Concerts – Snack Shack sales are going well. We are in the black \$752.31 for concessions. Norma will be making a large purchase to replenish supplies. There are large crowd pleasers for upcoming concerts. Sue said that there are T-Shirts from the 250th Bethlehem Celebration that are available for the Friends to sell for \$5.00. All agreed that this was a good idea. Sue will be responsible for selling them. All proceeds will go to the Friends. She will also sell the leftover Eclipse T-shirts.

Thinking Caps – Allegra – Allegra suggested having a table at the Bethlehem Summer Fest on Saturday, August 9th. There are many bags left from the June 7th event that could be given out. Hilary expressed concern that many of the same people attending this event attended the June 7th event. The decision was made to forego that idea.

Another idea was to invite speakers to the monthly Friends meetings to attract attendees. Several names were suggested for possible speakers. Costs must be researched for this type of event, keeping in mind that existing funds need to be used for the pavilion. If the event is held at a location other than

the library, then fees may be charged for attendance. This is something that will take time to plan, but well worth the effort to increase exposure for the Friends.

Sue suggested that we create a discussion group with young families to ask them what we can do to help them get involved with the library.

It was also noted that the library is no longer just a place for folks to take out books but has become more of a community center.

Should we consider applying for a Partner of the Month at the Co-op?

How can we make these things reality?

The Velocireader Needs You! That needs to be shared everywhere by everyone. Sue suggested that we need someone who can create a marketing campaign for the Friends.

Sue ordered four dinos and Estelle ordered two dinos that will be used for traveling as a "Flat Stanley" for exposure. Estelle will make My name is Velocireader name tags for the six stuffies.

New Business

Annual Meeting – Estelle will need updated forms, letter, and ballot before the next meeting. She is stepping down as Secretary at the Annual Meeting. Therefore, there are open positions for President and Secretary for the upcoming year.

Allegra made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sue. The meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 5:30pm.