

Friends of the Millis Public Library Monthly Meeting  
February 26, 2025

Attendees: Sandra Elaine Scott, Meghan Gavaghan, Julie Ackley, Jen Payne, Becky Fong – Trustee, Nancy Snow, Diana Nunnaley, Kim Tolson – Library Director  
Art Payne attended by Zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Meghan

Acceptance of January 2025 Meeting Minutes, which were emailed out. Meghan made a motion to accept, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Meghan presented the report. The finances remain steady. The Novel Occasion Re-cap was presented, with a full breakdown. Income was \$6612.76, expenses were \$3357, with the net gain of \$3255.72. Diana made a motion to accept the report, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Director's Report: Kim presented the report. The Pop-Up Art event of Mexican Tin Art for adults had 10 attendees. During school vacation week several programs were held that were well attended. The St. Paulie's Textile Shed proposal/commitment was approved by the Board of Trustees. The next step is to present it before the Select Board for approval. Kim brought up that the staff cannot maintain the shed – it must be done by volunteers. A New Museum Pass was purchased. It is for the Trustees of Reservations. The Old Sturbridge Village Pass was discontinued due to the lack of interest. The new pass was less!

Kim then moved on to the Program Funding Requests. She put together the requests for March 2025 through September 2025 by categories. The total funding for the Adult Programs would be \$2700. The total funding for the Youth Programs would be \$3245. The total for the Millis Reads Program would be \$800. The total cost for Millis Reads would be \$1400, but attendees would be charged \$20 each for each ticket. This is for the trip to the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. The cost is for the transportation.

The Friends approved the following allocation of funds:

Millis Reads: up to \$800. Meghan made the motion, Sandra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Adult Programs: \$350 for Henna for Teens & Adults, \$200 for Memory Cafe, and \$100 for Supplies.

Youth Programs: \$415 for programs March – May.

Total for the Adult and Youth Programs is \$1065. Meghan made the motion, Sandra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Sandra stated that we need to be thoughtful about how we spend the Friends' money. While we do have the money, we need to be careful with our spending.

Trustees Report was presented by Becky. The Trustees are looking for a new Trustee as Trisha is finishing out her term. The Trustees are looking for ways to reach out for sponsorships. They are looking for new, creative and engaging fundraisers and events. Lots of new energy and ideas with the Trustees!

The results from the Survey are not yet completed. The administrator is still working on the focus groups and collecting the data. She will collect all of this and put together a final report.

The question was asked about how many Friends' emails do we have. Meghan stated that there are approximately 150. 35-50 of those Friends renew their memberships annually. 100 of those have recently lapsed.

Sponsorship Discussion from Diana and Nancy.

The Goal is to have perpetuating sponsorships. To be all local: you are supporting us – we are supporting you.

The presentation was very thorough and thought out. The main highlights are:

Launch an Annual Appeal. There are approximately 300 businesses listed as being in Millis. That list needs to be gone through to see if they are still in business.

Acknowledge those businesses that participate:

“Wall of Fame” depending on space and in agreement with the Library

Bookmarks with those businesses listed – passed out to patrons

Pop-ups/notices in local businesses that would have information on the library and would say “We Sponsored this Event” or Proud Sponsor of the Millis Public Library.

Sandra stated the four parts of Grass Root Fundraising:

Urgency, Anger, Hope and You can make a difference.

We Need Your Help

Diana asked Kim what is possible to do on the Library's web page. The Sherborn and Dover Libraries pages are very easy to navigate, was engaging and very thorough about their appeal.

The Millis Library Page does list the Friends but not prominently. The page needs updating. Many good thoughts were discussed on how to re-do the library's web page to draw focus to the Friends, donating and volunteering. This discussion was tabled to another time. Diana, Nancy, Becky, Kim and Sandra will be getting together to discuss this more.

Becky suggested to expand the on-going book sale, have a spot in the library or on-line to sell trinkets, the book bags etc.

Friends of the Millis Library Scholarship. The application was sent to the e board for comments and any changes. Becky to join the scholarship team to be the tie-breaker.

The Book Sale is April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. The books will be moved from the shed to the Roche

room on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Looking for volunteers to help! Becky to have the coffee table available like the last sale.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04

The next meeting is March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Ackley – Recording Secretary.