



**Friends of the Ogden Farmer's Library
Zoom Board Meeting
January 24, 2022**

Attendees: Mary Anderson, John Cohen, Liz Finnegan, Karen Owen, Sherie Cuddy, Linda Tague, Paula Yandow-Reilly

Standing Reports:

Secretary's Report: Paula moved to accept the minutes of the September 2021 meeting as reported. Sherie seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer: Sherie Cuddy reported the following balances as of January 10, 2022:

Checking Account	\$3,457.22
Savings Account	\$6,831.67 (not official- no statement yet)

Membership Report: Paula reported the following membership information:

- 223 members in our directory
- 52 members with renewals in the last year
- Membership income from last year was roughly \$1,085.00
- Membership breakout:
 - Single memberships 29
 - Family memberships 13
 - Premier memberships 12

Membership Drive:

- How can we be more visible to library patrons?
 - Could we add an email address on our Friend's page to allow people to email us with questions etc?
 - Do we want to get set up to be able to accept membership online
 - Programming to encourage new members in the coming year.
 - Could we start a Friend's book club? There is already a book club that meets during the day. We could meet in the evening, possibly on line due to Covid. We could also meet at someone's home. Sherie stated that the Brindle House Brewery has a free room that me might be able to use. We could call it Beer and Books
 - Friend's could deliver books to the home bound (see notes under Director's Report).

- Should we re-think our fees:

Should we continue to charge an annual dues or offer free membership to FOL with a request for a donation upon joining or rejoining?

John had a conversation with some libraries that offer Friends memberships with only a request for a voluntary donation in lieu of a set fee. He said that some libraries, like ours, charge an annual fee. Some just request a donation and others charge a fee or allow patrons to work a shift at their book sale in lieu of the fee.

Pros of not charging a fee:

- Might get more Friend's members
- None of the "non-fee" libraries said that they thought it was a mistake
- People might donate more than the actual fee

Cons of not charging a fee:

- Would loose the fee income. According to Paula, last years dues income was \$1085.00.
- Would members feel less invested in Friend's if they did not pay a fee?

We might want to include a question on our proposed survey asking if the members liked the idea of membership with only a voluntary donation.

We are not going to change our dues requirements at this time because we had a large number of Friends brochures printed up last fall and would like to use them before we make any changes. Also, we have to check to see if changes are needed to the by-laws regarding dues.

We also might want to remind our Friend' and non-Friend's patrons that although much of what the library offers is covered by taxes, many of the programs are not covered and would

not be available without the monetary support of the Friends organization (and others?). It would be nice to have a list of the programs that we actually support.

Continuing Business:

Annual Officers Vote:

President	Mary Anderson
Vice Pres	Paula Yandow-Reilly
Secretary	Liz Finnegan
Treasurer	Sherie Cuddy

All present are fine with the slate of officers. Paula moved to accept the slate of officers. Sherie seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Director's Report: John reported the following:

- Patrick Montanaro has tendered his resignation. He has a new job working from home which will be much better for him as he had a long commute to the library. We asked John to offer him our best wishes.
- John has seven applicants for Patrick position as the library's communications person. If anyone know of anyone else who might be interested, ask them to submit a resume no later than Friday, January 28, 2022.
- John will arrange a "meet & greet" after the position has been filled.
- John felt it was important to make sure that someone else could do his job in his absence so Kaitlyn has been promoted to assistant director and is being trained so that she can handle the position if necessary.
- Sheila has taken a leave of absence until late March.
- As of February 1, programs stopped due to Covid will be reinstated.
- Some libraries deliver books to home bound patrons. He would have to check into the library's liability in case of an accident or injury but it is something that the Friend's might want to consider. Mary thought some of the Friend's might enjoy doing this. We could ask on our survey if anyone was interested in delivering books.
- Paula asked John if he had looked into an end cap bulletin board for Friend's. John said that he is trying to find three good very visible spaces for us to choose from.
- We asked him to give us a break down of what our \$1500.00 donation was spent on last year.
- Paula asked him if we could use the meeting room at a different period of time during the year. He said it would not be possible because the room is in very high demand, especially since it is free.

Book Sale Review:

Liz Finnegan reported that the sale went very well due to the support and hard work of her committee, the library director and staff, and the help of all of the volunteers at the sale. We had an extraordinary number of items donated, probably due to not having a sale last year and people reading more due to Covid. According the daily sheets filled out by the volunteers, we sold 1202 books, 142 DVDs, 44 CDs, 11 books on tape, 6 puzzles and 2 library tote bags. On Saturday, because the committee members put the information out on Facebook and Twitter etc., we had a very busy day and sold 60 bags of books at \$3.00 per bag. Our busiest day was Thursday.

Hunt Realty in Spencerport volunteered to be a drop off point for books this year which was a great help. One gentleman donated his entire, extensive collection of science fiction books. Another gentleman took the leftovers and sold them on the Internet which netted us another \$100.00. And, for the first time, we were able to accept credit card payments which was greatly appreciated for large purchases.

Fundraisers/Friend-raisers for 2022:

We are going to start posting a book review on our site each month starting in February. Sheri will provide the first review. Liz will do one for March and Paula will do the April review. We are happy to accept a review of any book but thought it might be fun to ask people to review a book bought at the book sale by an author they have never read before. The only criteria is that the book must be available in the Monroe County Library System. Mary will be in charge of recruiting others to write reviews. She will also send an email to all of the Friend's members to let them know that they can find the review on the Ogden Farmer's Library website under the Friend's column.

Member Survey:

We came up with a couple of questions to add to our proposed member survey:

1. Would members be interested in an evening book club?
2. Would members volunteer to deliver books to home bound members?
3. Would members like us to continue to charge a set fee for membership or to offer membership for free with a request for a donation?
4. If we continue to charge a set fee, would members consider waiving the fee for those who volunteer at the book sale?

Friend's of the Ogden Farmer's Library 2022 Calendar:

January 24	Meeting of the Friends of the Library
April 4	Meeting of the Friends of the Library
April 16	National Librarian Appreciation Day

June 13	Meeting of the Friends of the Library
August 15	Meeting of the Friends – Book Sale Prep
Oct. 3 – 14	Book Donations to the Sale
Oct 14, 17, 18	Book Sale Set Up
Oct. 17 -22	National Friends of the Library Week
Oct 18	Friends Night at the Book Sale
Oct 19 -22	Book Sale
Nov. 7	Meeting of the Friends of the Library
Dec.	Library Staff Christmas Appreciation Lunch