**Friends of Jonathan Trumbull Library**

Meeting ~ February 21, 2023

Present: Chris Lord, Priscilla Clesowich, Matt Earls, Melissa Hayes, Michael Harris, Amy Harris, Rick Kane, Sue Kane, Linda Wallace, Art Wallace, Lydia Myers, Edna Pelto

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by president Chris Lord.

The minutes of the October 11, 2022, meeting were not sent to membership ahead of time; they will be approved at the next meeting.

Betsy Petrie and Kevin Cwikla from Lebanon Board of Selectmen gave a presentation on a public works proposal. The current public works facility faces challenges, and they are looking at possibilities for new locations. This proposal involved a 45-acre parcel (horse farm); they shared information with the group and encouraged discussion and questions.

**Library Director’s Report**

Matt Earls announced that he is leaving JTL for a new job as director of the Southington Library. His last day will be March 16. He thanked the Friends for all of their help over the years, and the Friends thanked him for his hard work at JTL, especially with the building project, and wished him well with his new position.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Priscilla Clesowich gave the treasurer’s report. Memberships and donations received: $20.00; Amazon Smile $34.68. Museum passes paid: $350 (Pequot); $200 (Florence Griswold Museum). Also $750 toward toys for children’s library. Current balance: $19,576.85.

Rick Kane mentioned that CD rates are in the 4% range; the group discussed putting some of our funds in a CD. Priscilla agreed to look into this. Motion (Rick Kane/Chris Lord) to invest up to $15,000 in a CD. The motion carried with none opposed.

Motion (Matt Earls/Linda Wallace) to receive treasurer’s report and file for audit. The motion carried with none opposed.

**Membership**

Missy Hayes reported on membership, on behalf of Allison Peterson, membership chairperson, who was unable to attend this meeting. Allison met with Missy Hayes and Maggie Gaier regarding ideas to increase membership in Friends of JTL. Allison has looked over recent membership information and reports: in 2019, 24 renewals; in 2020, 1 renewal; in 2021, 0 renewals; and in 2022, 9 renewals. During the pandemic, we haven’t been able to focus on Friends membership, but going forward, we would like to revive the membership. Allison has plans on how to make it easy for people to sign up, but she wanted to ask members about their top goal for 2023: is it to increase membership, or to increase funds?

Missy distributed handouts from Allison with this question, and members agreed they wanted to focus on increasing membership, including families with children, getting them more involved in Friends of JTL activities. Allison will work on creating the new membership structure/system to be put in place by the next meeting in May.

**Art Show**

We have artist of the month scheduled for the next several months. The group discussed having an art show in the fall (rather than the spring equinox). The group agreed to table the discussion of the art show until the next meeting in May.

**Book Sale**

We still need a new chairperson to take on this project. Even if we wait until July to start accepting donations, we could still hold the book sale if someone agrees to be chairperson. We will discuss this further at the May meeting.

**Take Note a cappella group fund-raising event**

Linda Wallace reported that the Take Note concert, which was originally planned during the pandemic, will take place on March 26, 2023, 3:00 p.m., at First Congregational Church. Free will donations will go toward funding the pollinator garden at JTL. Linda asked the Friends to provide desserts for the reception to follow in the fellowship hall. The church is not charging us anything to hold this concert. Motion (Linda Wallace/Amy Harris) to send the church a check for $100 for this event. The motion carried with none opposed.

Motion to adjourn (Amy Harris/Rick Kane) at 6:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 10, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Hayes