

Friends of Dover Free Library Meeting
Wednesday, February 20th, 2008 in the DFL Community Room

Present: Lisa Coneeny, Marcy McElroy, Valerie Kaufman, Judy LaFiura, Judy Jones, John Flores, Patti Buck

Previous meeting minutes: Marcy suggested that the January 9th minutes should reflect that the proposed Friends brochure would not only benefit dealings with the IRS but also with future donors. Given this amendment, the minutes were accepted

Financial report: Treasurer Pat Bowen was not present to give this report but did phone in recent figures. The current statement is \$2800 and this does not include the \$707.80 raised at the Valentine's Day Thirsty Thursday event.

Volunteer report: Barbara and Carol were not present to report on the proposed Friends' brochure. It is felt that this would be helpful also in recruiting volunteers. Cheryl Morrison received kudos again for all her effort to alert volunteers to library needs. She works from NYC and still manages to find time to advise Friends about jobs for/with Friends as needed. Hillary Twining and Margaret Stearns also were commended for their work on the library's wonderful website. Patti will invite Aimee Pritcher, both a DFL Friend and a member of the Dover Economic Development Committee for Beautification, and Meredith Anton, a new FoDFL member, to the next meeting so that a plan for this summer's library garden might be initiated.

Past and ongoing activities:

A. The Valentine's Day Thirsty Thursday was viewed as a success, but once again Friends were major contributors to the outcome. Judy (Jones) and Valerie were thanked for supplying the baskets and all Friends who contributed to the basket contents and who attended the event at the West Dover Inn were commended. It was the consensus of the group present that this should be done again, perhaps at another venue. Judy J. suggested that the Road House might be a willing agent. One negative was that for one basket the raffle purchaser had to be present and for the other, not. Lisa suggested that for all future events ticket-purchasers need not be present to win. All present agreed.

It was the overall consensus that the purpose of the Friends should be to raise money for the library, but that Friends should not be the main contributors. While most are happy to donate modest amounts, there is the risk of becoming over-tapped and, as a result, a bit resentful. To this end, Valerie said that had the baskets gone to a local high-traffic location (such as the Summit Hotel at Mt. Snow) for pre-event viewing, more money would have come from outsiders. This will be considered for future like events.

B. Book Sale- Judy L. and Marcy were commended for their work on the DFL foyer book sale. With their organizing and shelving of the books and thenew flooring in the foyer, the display is now much improved in appearance and more welcoming to Library visitors.

C. Easter Baskets- Tamara reported that she will not offer this event this year. She feels that the community has been over-tapped for donations/contributions and overall the amount of work involved does not match the financial gain.

D. The Spanish classes at the library continue and John would like to offer more such activities.

New ideas:

A. Garden talks- Judy Overton-Jones worked hard to procure Jack Mannix and Chris Darrow for February, but the time was just too short to get this organized. Chris Keefe, who spoke both in March and September, has consented to do so again. His next talk will be on the topic of rock gardens. Karen Wheeler from Newfane Nursery will again offer a talk and is open to topic suggestions. The Friends commend Judy for her ongoing efforts on behalf of the DFL; her work on the Festival of Trees and Lights was likewise applauded.

B. Tamara is now licensed to offer the Red Cross Baby Sitting Club. We will learn more about this at the next meeting. It could be that Friends might in some way be involved.

C. To honor Poetry Week DFL will host Poetry Day on Saturday April 12th; Friends are invited to attend. Tamara spoke about Library Appreciation Week which will begin April 13th. DFL will offer a Volunteer Appreciation Day, Monday, April 14th.

D. Summer events might include a dance in July. Area dancers such as Ray Warren and Michael Rodriguez could become involved with this event. Valerie will check the Chamber of Commerce calendar to see if conflicts exist. If this is to take place, the Dover Town Hall must be booked soon and a volunteer committee will need to be formed.

E. The idea of sponsoring an Antique Road Show was revisited. At this time this has been on hold, but the consensus was that more Friends will be needed to carry off this community event. For this reason, and the fact that other events are taking place, the idea has been again tabled.

F. Patti called the VT Welcome Center to find out how FoDFL might sponsor a baked goods fundraiser at the Center; the Fall is thought to be a good time for such an event. Sign up forms were received in the mail. Marcy suggested that Charlotte Bond be contacted as her organization has taken part in this format. Apparently this event requires a good deal of preparation and several Friends will be needed to make the baked goods and several more to offer them. Friends felt that unless a committee can be formed for this event we might, for now, put this idea on hold.

Other business:

- Fundraising needs: The purchase of a storage shed is still under consideration. Judy Jones volunteered to supply the cement slab support for such a structure. John Thurber was consulted by John Flores and he suggested that a ready-made shed would be the most economical way to go. As this is now financially possible, a purchase will be explored.

- Dessert Social: In the moments prior to adjournment John Flores reported that he had just been contacted by John Perkins' representative to say that he will be able to speak at this year's Dessert Social scheduled for August 7th. John will book the Dover Town Hall for this event. Mr. Perkins spoke to a standing-room-only crowd two years ago and the Friends are hoping for a repeat performance this year. His latest book is: The Secret History of the American Empire. This event will be discussed at the next Friends' meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:30. The next Friends meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12th at 9 A.M. in the DFL Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Buck
FoDFL Secretary