**Friends of the Library – Meeting Minutes 11/9/21**

In attendance: Catherine Bushman, Alan Olenick, Bill Heffernan, Maureen Ulsamer, Doug Daniels, Pat Donelly, Angela Invernale

Meeting called to order at 5:18pm. October Minutes approved.

Membership Report: Total of 119 members (last month’s report did not include some Paypal memberships, which is why there is a large increase from last month’s report). Since 7/1/21 we’ve had 30 renewals, $715 in dues. Lifetime memberships can be paid for in 3 installments.

Director’s Report: We are fully staffed as of October! Shayne (new BKM/outreach librarian) will soon be working with our Senior Center in addition to our homebound patrons. Virtual program with Sydney Sherman was well attended. Small, in-person programming will begin in January (movie night, cross-stitch group). On 11/17/21 we will be hosting Dan Shine for an author signing of the WH Centennial book. Children’s dept has been having successful storytimes at the green and WH Community House. Amanda has been visiting schools to talk about library. Stairwell floor tiles will be replaced in the next month per board approval. Two new scanners have been purchased to properly digitize the older West Haven information in the basement. We’ve seen an increase in our database usage, particularly HelpNow (we have the highest rate of use in CT). Library stats for last fiscal year significantly lower than pre-pandemic. Our circulation is at 63% of what it was the prior year, and 56% of 2019s numbers. However, our electronic loaning of materials is up from previous years, and accounts for nearly 35% of all library loans. Lastly, we will be making some announcements soon regarding the future of Allingtown library!

Treasurer’s Report: Adjust $425 payment from “Halloween” program to “Holiday” program. Otherwise, read & approved.

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* I Love My Library lawn signs – Friends agreed to allocate up to $500 for new lawn signs.
* Perhaps an article can be written for the Voice regarding West Haven use of HelpNow
* Going forward, we should try to get a sponsorship for the bags we buy for the book sale
* Leftover bags from October’s sale can be sold at the Circulation Desk and Ora Mason for $5.00
* Colleen/Children’s Dept can notify schools as to when we are holding a sale
* Card to be sent to John the auditor

**Next Friends meeting – December 7th at 5:15pm – Connie Sacco Room**