**Friends of the Library – Meeting Minutes 12/7/21**

In attendance: Colleen Bailie, Alan Olenick, Bill Heffernan, Patti GaNun, Maureen Ulsamer, Kym Powe, Doug Daniels, Pat Donnelly, Angela Invernale

Meeting called to order at 5:17pm. November Minutes approved.

Director’s Report: We finally have a purchase agreement for the land at 634 Orange Ave for the Allingtown Library! The library was also approved for a $1million state grant in November. Next step will be planning and zoning as there is a zone change needed for the area. The Light Up the Library campaign is in full swing at both branches. We’ve met with the West Haven Prevention Council and will begin some collaborative programming, both for staff and for the public. Staff will be doing Opioid Awareness & Mental Health First Aid in December/January and will have 3 public sessions in January, February, and March with Hidden in Plain Sight, Today’s Marijuana, and If They Had Known. New stair treads were put in at the end of November, and the elevator will soon follow. Sara has begun digitizing the postcard collection that the library has acquired over the years with old West Haven landmarks. The library has recently purchased two new databases: O’Reilly which has learning tools and ebooks, and Reference Solutions for access to business and consumer information. Both will be available in January.

Membership Report: 35 new members since July 2021; $1035 total membership, 105 members in total. Constant contact list consists of ~7000 email addresses. Annual appeal to go out soon.

FOCL Report: It’s been quiet, likely due to COVID. Book sales and bakes sales are still being posted, some opting to move indoors (school auditoriums etc). Unfortunately, our community room is too small to consider moving out book sale indoors.

Treasurer’s Report: Read & approved.

* Thank you card to be sent to custodian Mike for helping with donations and other Friends related things.
* Programming slowly coming back, hybrid options available.
* Staff is remaining masked
* HelpNow software usage highest in CT
* Ebooks usage has not decreased since we reopened our doors

Funding Request: $400 for All CT Reads Book Display and Raffle

Funds to be used to purchased copies of book titles and raffle prizes: **APPROVED**

**Next Friends Meeting will be February 1st at 5:15pm via Zoom**