**Friends of the Library – Meeting Minutes 3/1/22**

In attendance: Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman, Alan Olenick, Bill Heffernan, Sue Bonci, Maureen Ulsamer, Kathy St. Clair, Michael Invernale, Heather Westbrook, Angela Invernale

Meeting called to order 5:22pm

Director’s Report: Unfortunately, our accountant Angela had to quit for personal reasons so her work is currently being divided between multiple people; special thanks to Catherine, Mary and Tanarha for helping me until we can Angela’s position. Following suit with the school’s mask guidelines, we have also reduced our mask requirements to encouraged, but not mandatory. Staff will stay masked for a few more weeks while we keep an eye on the numbers. In-person programming with limited capacity will start up again this month. A few unfortunate incidents of patrons breaking the code of conduct which also lead to reducing the mask mandate as to take the burden off of staff having to enforce it. Happily, we are one of 200 libraries to receive an ALA American Rescue Plan Humanities grant for $10,000! This will continue our tutoring programs for the summer and allow us to expand bookmobile services in Allingtown for the next few months. At the mayor’s and city council’s ARPA meetings over the last few weeks, a need for a library in Allingtown was brought up a number of times—special thanks to those who spoke up! Budget for FY23 was submitted to City Hall last month. Will hear soon when I will speak before City Council in regards to our budget ask, which was 3.5% over this year’s number, accounting for raises and health insurance cost increases. Mayor Rossi has to submit her budget by March 17; she promised at the last ARPA meeting to give her recommendation at the following meeting (March 14). CLA conference for librarians will be held May 3-4 in Hartford. Push to change eBook legislature in CT – libraries are overcharged terribly for eBooks. Fifteen people spoke in the Senate hearing to change legislature; New York and Illinois failed to implement the change, Maryland did implement. CT is getting mentions in publisher’s journals for the amount of support the new eBook bill is getting.

Membership Report: Total members – 128; $1553.22 FY.

Treasurer’s Report: Read and approved – Question: Is there any benefit to moving some money to savings. Short answer: no.

* Annual Staff/Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be April 7th, RSVP by March 31. We can set up from 11-12pm, the luncheon will be 12-1:30pm, cleanup until 2pm. We will serve pizza, salad, soda, and dessert.
* Book Sale to be held April 30th (same times for set up/start/breakdown) – Do we want to do a Fill-a-bag? If so, maybe look into getting the bags donated! Social media/Voice post about Open Donations can go out early April. Friends approved purchase of 6 folding plastic tables with carrying handle @ $50 each. We could also see if anyone wants to donate a table to the Friends.
* Funding Request: Children/Teen Summer Reading Program - **$3000**
* Summer Survival Kits for all ages (180 bags) to be distributed at the beginning of summer reading, Summer Reading Kick-Off Party (June 17, rain date June 21), Summer Reading Programs (All ages, including in-person and take & make craft kits), Summer Reading Raffle prize baskets and gift cards (for all ages scavenger hunt) – **APPROVED**
* Museum Passes: Patrons have been calling asking if/when we will have passes again. We will look into purchases some of the passes we used to have IF they were well-used and circulated, and if new passes are being looked at, we must look into why and if they would be a good idea.
* Friends event ideas: Friends-sponsored speaker from museum or *trip* to museum, Friends function like Night in the Stacks with tickets at the door