

FRIENDS' REPORT TO TRUSTEES

Friends of the Catskill Public Library and Palenville Branch, Inc.

November 20, 2024

Highlights of November 12, 2024 Friends' Meeting

The November 12, 2024 Board Meeting of the Friends Group was held by Google Meet. All Board members were in attendance and Helen Tieger joined the meeting to get acquainted with the Friends and to discuss an idea about a Not for Profit Mingle in collaboration with the Friends and the Library.

The Meeting focused on details of the Membership drive, Free Little Library Project and discussion about next events - Book Swap and Mingle and Author's Event and the sponsoring of a Not for Profit Mingle.

A Social Gathering with Trustees/Library Staff/Friends was also discussed. A fun activity/gathering is a good idea (bowling?).

The Partners for Climate Action -Ecological Restoration Grant/RFP was submitted on October 25, 2024 for the creation of an educational At-Risk Pollinator Habitat at the Franklin Street site in the amount of \$3,000.

A grant application with the Catskill Community Center will also be submitted by December 15, 2024 to cover costs of curating an Author's Event for Friend's Members and the Community.

A Wish list from Library Director and Staff has also been requested and is on the table. We discussed what this may look like. Trustee ideas are also welcome.

Treasurer's Report:

Total balance effective 11.12.24 = \$2,961. Insurance and IRS filing costs were the recent major expenses. Dave S. reported that there is \$1,480 income from Friends Memberships since May. The Afternoon of Enchantment expenses totaled approximately \$2500 with some materials reimbursement still outstanding to Joy. Estimates are still pending for swag and future events and this will be budgeted. Dave is working on building the budget for 2025.

Membership Drive and Status:

Total Current Memberships: 26 Reader (6); Author (10); Editor (6); Publisher (0); Aristocrat (4)

Membership swag (design) is still under development and it is necessary to start fresh with a new local artist.

The Friends will continue to pursue opportunities for Membership acquisition which include future tabling events, promotional materials at Circulation Desks at libraries, mailings and promotion at library events.

It was agreed that we will complete a Friends direct mailing by the end of the year.

Networking and Promotion:

The Library and Friends participated in 6 *Farmer's Markets* this season and curated 6 Children/Family activities in collaboration with the Farmer's Market. The final one of the season was October 29 (pumpkin painting). We

will be meeting with the Farmer's Market Directors in assessing this season's programming and planning for 2025.

The Library and Friends were "regulars" at the Farmer's Market. This was a great opportunity to promote the Friends and the Library enthusiastically (and simultaneously) while offering creative and educational opportunities for children and families. Feedback has been positive about our participation at the Farmer's Market. Much gratitude to the Library staff for their time and talent in this monthly activity and to the Farmer's Market folks who funded material/activity costs and gave us great publicity through social media.

The Friends and the Library are collaborating with *Rotary on the Free Little Library Project*. Target for placement of the first Little Library on Main Street is December 15.

The Rotary Club of Catskill (Joy and Christopher are now members) is committed to service and literacy projects. At a recent meeting the Superintendent of Schools was present and Rotary members discussed revitalizing Rotaract Club at the High School and involving the youth in service, the Little Library Project being one, among others. Youth involvement in decorating and stewarding the Little Libraries is most welcome.

The Friends will participate in the *Solstice community-wide event in December* along with the library.

Book Swap and Sip: To be held in conjunction with Not for Profit Mingle. We are still building on this idea.

Author's Event: To be held in 2025. Grant and sponsorships will be necessary to execute.

Friends Soup Night at Left Bank: Coming soon! In January as a major fundraising and membership boosting event.

Next Friends Meeting: Second Tuesday of Month, December 10, 2024 at 1 Franklin Street or by Google Meet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy DeVita

Friends of the Catskill Public Library and Palenville Branch, Inc.