

FRIENDS' REPORT TO TRUSTEES

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

December 18, 2024

Highlights of December 10, 2024 Friends' Meeting

The December 10, 2024 Board Meeting of the Friends Group was held by Google Meet.

The Friends have officially received *Tax Exempt 501(3) and Public Charity Status 509(a)(2)* effective 12/18/23 the date of our corporation filing.

The Meeting focused on details of the Membership drive, specifically a direct mailing letter to potential Members, status of swag, discussion about Friends usage of social media, as well as discussion about next events -

Fundraising Soup Night at Left Bank 1/23/25

Book Swap & Sip at the Library (After Hours) 2/11/25

Not for Profit Mingle TBD

A Social Gathering with Trustees/Library Staff/Friends was also noted and the Friends are in agreement that this could happen with the Grand Opening of the Palenville Branch at Woodbine Inn. The Friends will be providing a lunch for library staff during moving/settling in period.

As noted previously, 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. If awarded, we will hear in early 2025.

A grant application with the Catskill Community Center will also be submitted in December. There was discussion and agreement that the focus of this should be on dollars for Member-generating activities vs solely the Author's event.

A Wish list from Library Director and Staff is on the table. We discussed what this may look like and staff will read it. Trustee ideas are also welcome.

Treasurer's Report:

Total balance effective 12/10/24 = \$2,367.38. Dave is working on building the budget for 2025.

Membership Drive and Status:

Total Current Memberships: 28 Reader (7); Author (11); Editor (6); Publisher (0); Aristocrat (4)

Membership swag (design) is still under development and we are working with a new local artist.

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

Networking and Promotion:

The Friends and the Library continue to collaborate with *Rotary on the Free Little Library Project*. The first one will be installed on Main Street in front of Citiot. The Citiot team is working on constructing a moveable platform for the Little Library and will serve as stewards in maintaining it.

The Friends will participate in the *Solstice community-wide event* on December 21, 2024 along with the library.

Friends Soup Night at Left Bank: is scheduled for January 23, 2025 as a fundraising and membership boosting event.

Excitement is building with the hosting of a Not for Profit Mingle and the Friends are on board with collaborating and planning around this event. Left Bank Cidery is committed to hosting.

Gratitude and Community

If you've made it thus far in this report, I hope you know that I am personally grateful to the *Library Trilogy* - Trustees, Director & Staff, and the Friends - for this extraordinary year of building and growing the Friends of the Catskill Public Library and Palenville Branch, Inc. There has been a well-spring of support and community involvement as we have launched this endeavor. I am most grateful for the opportunities and challenges and fun we have had in 2024. I trust we will continue to grow and thrive in our support of the Libraries. Thank you all for your support and encouragement of the Friends. It's been a year of exciting growth and development. We look forward to strengthening our community of library enthusiasts, with the knowledge that the library is truly the backbone of our community. Happy Holidays and much to look forward to in 2025!

Next Meeting: Please note time change to 5 PM going forward

Next Friends Meeting: Second Tuesday of Month, January 14, 2024 at 1 Franklin Street or by Google Meet. Time Changed to 5 PM start time going forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy DeVita

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