

THE FRIENDS OF THE OLD LYME PHOEBE GRIFFIN NOYES LIBRARY
Annual Meeting - Wednesday, June 7th, 2017
10 A.M. in the Community Room

In attendance: Council Members Katie Balocca, Suzi Bolduc, Jennifer Harvill, Leslie Massa, Julie O'Brien, Steven Ross, Mary Seidner, Karen Smith, Tammy Kaye. Also in attendance, BookCellar Co-Chairs Claudia Condon and Anne deSelding, and members of the Friends of the OL-PGN Library.

1. **Greetings and Report from the Chair:** Leslie Massa welcomed the group. She summarized highlights from her report (**attached**), among them a welcome and appreciation for the arrival of Katie Huffman as Library Director. She noted that the process of retooling and refreshing that has been occurring in the Library has its parallel within the Friends organization. She then reviewed the agenda, touching on such highlights as the BookCellar's success in helping to fill a financial gap in the absence of the Bookworm Ball, the beautiful results of the garden crew's hard work, success in the recruitment of new Council members and the important process of defining a mission and vision statement for the Friends.

Filling in for Secretary Janet Olsen, Katy Klarnet noted that the minutes from last year's meeting were previously distributed. A motion to approve the minutes as written was asked for and passed.

2. **Board of Trustee's Report (attached):** Alan Poirier president of the Board of Trustees thanked the friends for their hard work and support of the Library. He noted that Board membership is evolving, with new member Jamie Alpha soon to be joined by others currently in the nomination process. Retiring Board members include Alan Curtis, Mark Mazzalupo, Adam Seidner and Roger Smith. He announced the names of new Officers (see report) and concluded by reiterating the Board's appreciation for all that the Friends contribute. "What you do is incredibly important."
3. **Library Director's Report (attached):** Katie Huffman expressed her gratitude to the Friends, for their warm welcome, for their important financial support and for the insight they have given her into the nature and needs of the Old Lyme community. She noted that the Friends contributed \$30,000 to this year's operating budget, which went toward the purchase of books, movies and audiobooks, museum passes and online databases. She added her thanks for the many in-person ways that Friends contribute. "This building shines because of your support."

Katie reminded the members of two important events, one upcoming and one ongoing: the Founder's Day celebration on June 28; and a major renovation/planning project announced earlier this year. She encouraged the members to share their ideas on things to incorporate in the planning process.

4. **Treasurer's Report (attached):** Steven Ross began by noting that he had enjoyed working with the Council in his first year as Treasurer. He thanked Tammy Kaye for filling in while he was in Florida, saying that the arrangement had worked well. He pointed out that the Friends of the OL-PGN library is unusual among Friends groups in providing significant operating funds for the library. This year's contribution will total \$30,000. BookCellar sales have been strong. The "Bookworm Challenge" program, developed as a fundraising alternative to the Bookworm Ball raised \$8,290 ("offset by \$0 expenses.") Steven presented a check, via Roger Smith, to Katie Huffman. He also drew attention to the amount the Friends have donated to the Library over the past 8 years – a total of \$299,290. He proposed that the Friends commit to a pledge of \$22,000 for the 2017-2018 year, with the hope that an additional \$3,000 may be added if a safe surplus continues to be maintained. Later in the meeting, Steven asked that members think about new fund-raising events and ideas for the year(s) ahead. The Bookworm Challenge was a unique program prompted by special circumstances and would not be as effective on an ongoing basis. A BookCellar 20th Birthday Celebration was promptly suggested.

5. **Garden Report (attached):** Nan Strohla thanked the Garden Committee members who help to maintain the gardens and noted that new members are very welcome. She also thanked the staff members who watch and water the pots when necessary.
6. **BookCellar Report (attached):** Claudia Condon reviewed some of the year's highlights: strong sales of over \$18,000; expanded hours for summer Saturdays; rare and collectibles sales of \$5,400; and the newly launched South Lyme satellite location. Changes to the cellar include new signage and upgraded shelving. The BookCellar celebrated its 20th Birthday in April and a volunteer tea was held to applaud the 64 current volunteers and to celebrate over \$300,000 that their and their predecessors' efforts have raised for the Library in that time. Anne de Selding spoke about plans for the Midsummer Festival sale, encouraging all who would like to volunteer. She also noted improved integration of Library and BookCellar efforts, such as the relocation of donated items to the Circulation area and the Cellar's hosting of "Lego Wednesdays" in collaboration with the Children's area.
7. **Hospitality and Membership Committee Report (attached):** Reporting for Cheryl Poirier, Jen Harvill noted highlights of the year for this newly formed team, including Mary Fiorelli's well-attended retirement party, a successful "Friend Raising" social and the development of an orientation program for new members. She described the work of a new task force in reviewing membership issues and responsibilities and concluded with recognition and thanks to the committee members whose efforts throughout the year and with refreshments for today's meeting are much appreciated.
8. **Mission and Vision Task Force:** Mary Seidner explained the reasoning behind the formation of a subcommittee to develop a mission and a vision statement for the Friends organization. She presented the statements as developed by the committee for comments and questions (**see attached**). A vote was taken and the statements were adopted as presented.
9. **Nominating Committee Report (attached):** Mary Seidner began by reviewing the process by which she, Leslie and Janet had been elected to their positions on the Council last year. She announced the slate of members nominated for election to the Friends' Council for the 2017-2019 term, which was unanimously approved. She concluded her report by announcing those individuals who are retiring from the Council.
10. **Recognition:** Leslie explained that the Council recently discovered that according to their bylaws, Katie Balocca, as a Library Staff member, may not serve as a member of the Council – despite the fact that she actually *has* participated as an invaluable member for several years. As a consequence, Katie has officially retired from the Council (although she will continue to serve as staff liaison), providing members with this opportunity to recognize and thank her for her outstanding – and ongoing service. Filling in for and sharing remarks prepared by Marsha Bansavage, Tammy Kaye spoke of our gratitude for her dedication, talent and energy. Katie was presented with a floral bouquet and received a standing ovation.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M. and was followed by a presentation by Michaelle Pearson, distinguished author, longtime library patron and library trustee. Ms. Pearson spoke about the library's namesake, Phoebe Griffin Noyes, one of the women profiled in her book *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme* and shared information gathered in her research on the remarkable history of Phoebe's family and our Old Lyme community.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Klarnet
Former Secretary