

THE FRIENDS OF THE OLD LYME PHOEBE GRIFFIN NOYES LIBRARY
Annual Meeting - Thursday, June 7th, 2018
10 A.M. in the Community Room

In attendance: Council Members Leslie Massa, Steven Ross, Mary Seidner, Janet Olsen, Cheryl Poirer, Martha Shoemaker, Anne Roy, Marsha Bansavage, Suzy Bolduc, Julie O'Brien, Tammy Kaye. Also in attendance were BookCellar Co-Chairs, Claudia Condon and Joan Overfield; staff representatives, Katie Huffman and Katie Balocca; Board of Trustees representatives, Mary Dangremond and Kristen Sicuranza; and members of the Friends of the OL-PGN Library.

1. **Welcome, Speaker and Poem:** Leslie welcomed all to The Friends of the OL PGN Library Annual Meeting. Janet Olsen introduced the guest speaker, Sydney Williams. Sydney, an Old Lyme resident for 25 years, has been a longtime supporter of the library. He has written two books, both a collection of essays reflecting on events – past and present. He spoke of his book, *Notes from Old Lyme, Life on the Marsh and Other Essays*, and about the importance of recording family history and of his deep love of books. Sydney generously offered his books for \$25 each with full proceeds donated to the library. Anne Roy read her poem, “Let’s Toast Lyme and Old Lyme!”
2. **Chair Report (attached):** Leslie thanked all who have contributed to the work of The Friends this past year. “We are here to celebrate the hard work that has taken place. You will hear this morning reports that reflect perseverance, passion, and collaboration.” Leslie commended the Friends Council for their work this year which included defining what it is to be a Friend, the creation of a new membership packet, the success of the BookCellar, and changes to the by-laws. “Hard work does indeed pay off. We are here to celebrate you – all who volunteer your time, creativity and passion.”
3. **Board of Trustee’s Report (attached):** Lynne Fairfield-Sonn was unable to attend the meeting. Kristen Sicuranza, Vice President of the Trustees, represented the board. She thanked The Friends for their contributions and spoke of the Trustee’s hard work on the building renovation and encouraged all to lend their support by attending public town meetings. The slate for next year’s board has been created and will be voted upon very soon.
4. **Library Director’s Report (attached):** Katie Huffman also expressed her gratitude for the work of all The Friends. She too encouraged all library patrons to show their support for the building renovation by attending all public town meetings. The Selectmen have voted in favor of bringing this initiative to a vote. Pending approval by the town’s Board of Finance, a vote at a special town meeting will take place. Katie reported that the library was proud to celebrate 120 years of service with a Founders Day Celebration. Details can be found on the library’s website. There is a desire to improve communications regarding library programming. Events, such as the holiday book sale, are taking place in the Reading Room making them more visible to the public. A new branding project and a newsletter will help make the library’s activities more inviting and transparent. Katie thanked The Friends for their financial support this past year. The \$22,000 helped to fund collections such as adult fiction, programming, databases and museum passes.

5. **Treasurer's Report (attached)**: Steven Ross felt the financial report was encouraging. He noted over seventy volunteers contribute their time to The Friends' efforts. Steven recognized the work of Claudia Condon and Joan Overfield in the BookCellar. Ninety-eight percent of The Friends' \$22,000 donation came from used book sales. He noted a new category for hospitality has been added to the budget. The goal, he said, is not to show a profit, but to take in money and then give it back to the library. Steven handed Katie Huffman a check for \$5,500 to fulfill The Friends' pledge. Steven made a motion to pledge \$22,000 for the 2018-19 fiscal year for the purposes that Katie Huffman has been using. The motion was seconded and the group voted unanimously to pledge \$22,000.
6. **Garden Report (attached)**: Nan Strola, with great joy, announced that new, and younger, members have recently joined the Garden Committee. She noted the collaborative efforts of volunteers and library staff. Nan will continue to be part of the Garden Committee, and Eleanor Hufford will chair the committee next year.
7. **BookCellar Report (attached)**: Claudia Condon felt there was much to be excited about this year. New promotional techniques have made an impact and sales are up. New signage in and around the library have encouraged new customers. June, July and August will include expanded BookCellar hours. The back entryway was painted and new artwork and rugs have added a welcoming touch. The BookCellar's greatest challenge is finding new customers. Therefore, she was overjoyed to report that a local online magazine called "The E-List," which has 23,000 subscribers, ran a fantastic article about our BookCellar. Equally exciting is an award the BookCellar is receiving this year. The Friends of Connecticut Libraries will recognize the work and success of our BookCellar at their yearly awards ceremony. The chairpersons and some library volunteers will receive their recognition when they attend the award ceremony in Middletown. Claudia thanked The Friends for nominating the BookCellar for this award.
8. **Membership and Hospitality Committee Report (attached)**: With gratitude, Chairperson Cheryl Poirer said that many hands make light work. The council and membership committee worked to define the question, "What is a Friend?" in regards to The Friends of the Library. The committee created a new membership packet and helped to update the The Friends' data base of personal information. Volunteers worked together to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for Ann DeSelding's farewell, the Holiday Book Sale and today's meeting. The council will, next year, discuss making Membership a permanent committee in order to recruit and orient new members.
9. **By-Laws Task Force (attached)**: Mary Seidner presented the work of the task force. The changes were discussed. It was noted that there needs to be consistency with the capitalization of the term, "The Friends." Mary made a motion to accept the by-law changes as written with the addition of the item noted regarding consistency. The motion was seconded and all approved of the revised by-laws.
10. **Nominating Committee Report (attached)**: Reporting for Jen Harvill, Mary Seidner presented the slate of proposed officers. As there were no nominations from the floor, the motion to accept the slate of officers was seconded and unanimously approved.
11. **Recognition**: Leslie recognized and thanked departing council members Janet Olsen, Tammy Kaye, and Marsha Bansavage for their service to The Friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Olsen
Secretary