

November Friends File: news from the field:

Exeter Library Friends Meeting on October 10th

Shirley Baron, Chris Peters, and I attended the meeting of Rockingham County Friends of the Library meeting. The room was packed. Sixty-eight registered. Actual attendance was closer to 80 as a number arrived late. I think the room was designed to hold 60. We probably violated a fire safety rule! We did extensive brainstorming.

A funny side note - five or six people in introducing themselves explained that they became president of their Friends group by missing the meeting where the election took place! One fellow, one of the four men in attendance(!), claimed that he became president of his group while he was on en route from Arizona to New Hampshire!

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Lots of information was shared and recorded on a dozen sheets newsprint: over a page of two-column, single-spaced worth of ideas. I'll be sharing these at our next meeting -- which I hope you will come to. What is crystal clear: the need of all Friends groups, much like our own, for help with membership/awareness: generating engagement with local library communities. We didn't solve this problem but we did name it -- which is a first step. And it's good to know we're not alone.

And there was strong interest in having an ongoing group with regular, say, quarterly meetings. Indeed the first meeting will be soon -- Thursday, November 14th. I intend to attend. I hope others will too.

At the top of this column is the front and back of a bookmark the Exeter Friends shared. As Adam reminds us, we have the capacity to print bookmarks and more. One of the things we might look at is what we can produce easily and in-house to aid engagement.

It was a good first meeting. There's a bunch of work to do. Glad the three of us could attend. Looking forward to future developments.

Friends of Weeks Public Library Seek Secretary

While we still do not want to sound like a broken record. We are still looking for a new Secretary. The Friends meet monthly; we take July and August off. And the position comes with excellent if intangible benefits, namely you get to work with some of the best people in the world. After all, we appreciate books and love our library. What benefits could be better? Could our next Secretary be you?

~David Phreaner, Friends Chair [inquiries: davidphreaner at yahoo dot com]