

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

October 2, 2024

A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on October 2, 2024, in the Collins Room at the Town Hall.

Brenda MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Members present who constituted a quorum: Sharon Ferris, Larry Norman, Jim Spinale, Patty Membrino, Brenda MacDonald, Jim Gately, Al Tassone, Denise Salemme, Dana Reardon, Darlene Torre, MaryAnne Durand, Sean Simonini, Mike Rosa, and Tracy DeJoy.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September meeting by Larry Norman, seconded by Jim Gately. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Election of Officers – Mike Rosa nominated Brenda MacDonald for Chair of the committee; seconded by Larry Norman; all voted in favor. Mike Rosa nominated Darlene Torre for Vice Chair; seconded by Tracy DeJoy; all voted in favor. Mike Rosa nominated Sharon Ferris for Treasurer; seconded by Larry Norman; all voted in favor. Mike Rosa nominated Patty Membrino for Secretary; seconded by Larry Norman; all voted in favor. Brenda then asked if there was anything not on the agenda that wanted to be included in miscellaneous business. Sharon said the Blood Drive.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris reported that it is up to date.

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Ferris reported that the Fall Fun raffle is finished. We did not do as well as we did last year. MaryAnne Durand commented that there was no information about where the events would take place. We can make a point of adding more information if we continue this raffle next year. We lost sales at Yankee Doodle due to the rainy conditions and slow traffic. We have two winners for those raffles. Concessions at Town Meeting amounted to \$189. There was only one night this session. Sharon reported that we have \$2790 in for calendar sales.

Town Calendar updates – Patty Membrino thanked everyone who helped out at the schools. She said the total sold at each school varies from year to year. She also thanked people for helping at Farmers Market and Yankee Doodle. There are still calendars at the library and Town Clerk's office, so point anyone asking about the calendars in their direction. Brenda MacDonald and Patty will be at O'Connor's 9-12 this Sunday (10/6). As of right now, we have 48 left-not counting what is left at library and Clerk's office. We welcome any suggestions for other places to sell them. Patty also wanted to give a mention about the principals at the two middle schools. They clearly made a difference in the sales at those schools. They were enthusiastic, supportive, and kept making announcements about us being at the schools. Jim Gately mentioned that there is a district-wide meeting for the teachers prior to school opening. We could try to be there next year. We will need to talk to the Superintendent about being able to go then. Brenda mentioned that Project Support did not know about the calendars. Brenda told the group about her bringing the unsold calendars to the Food Pantry last year, to be given out to people. Mike Rosa, who is the Buy-back sponsor this year, said he was fine with whatever we wanted to do with the leftover calendars.

Scholarship updates – Sharon Ferris told us that for our new Continuation Scholarship we had 25 applicants for the class of 2023, 14 applicants for class of 2022, and 16 applicants for the class of 2021.

Sharon had the 3 newest committee members draw a winner from each class for the scholarship. We have a new scholarship of \$1500 from the donation from Parker's Maple Barn. Sharon told us about a new scholarship. She received a check from Paul Barber for \$26,905.78 from the Hallenborg Fund. He wants to transfer the management of the scholarship over to us. It was a general scholarship, preference for BMHS with no hockey restrictions. Sharon asked us what we want to do with this so that she can report back to Attorney Dangora, her contact. Mike Rosa suggested \$1500 a year as long as it runs, with no restrictions. The group agreed. Sharon said she has not received any more clarification regarding the Community College free tuition situation. Dollars for Scholars says the money cannot be given to a student. They can defer, though. It was discussed and we should look to see what other organizations are doing about this and take a closer look at terms and paperwork from Dollars for Scholars. Brenda and Sharon will be going to the Tech Scholarship night on October 24. Sharon said her niece told her that when applying for scholarships, she does not look at dollar amounts, but rather if she has a good possibility of success. Sharon said that she will stress that our students have good chances, as only about 100 students apply. Tracy DeJoy asked if we were going to prevent students going to community colleges from applying. Al Tassone said we should put a disclaimer in the application regarding this situation. As far as deferring, we should have a time limit. Patty Membrino suggested taking the money that is awarded to a student, but that then cannot be used due to the community college situation and applying that money to the Continuation Scholarship. If the students go on to another college, they will be able to apply for this scholarship. As far as this year's class is concerned, Brenda said we should hold the money for them for 2 years in case they decide to continue on. Sharon let us know of the winners of the Continuation scholarship that were picked earlier: for class of 2021-Emily Laskey; 2022-Ethan Dansereau; and 2023-Sarah Green.

Lottery and Fall raffles – The Fall Fun raffles did not do well this year. We will have to reexamine this next year. The Lottery raffle is ready to kick off. The tickets are \$20 each. Jim Spinale took some paper tickets to sell.

Savers Drive – Sharon Ferris will be delivering to Savers on Saturday. After work Friday, the truck will be loaded at Sharon's house. If anyone wants to come to help, that would be appreciated. There are books and clothes. She got books from the library, leftover from their Yankee Doodle book sale. Will start collecting again for January. The pod will be delivered to her house around Thanksgiving.

Trivia Night – Brenda MacDonald reported that nothing new on the logo yet. The theme is Famous Families. She said to solicit for ads and raffles. MaryAnne Durand said that a former teacher, Mrs. Goldsmith, became an artist and has a studio in Lowell. She is gifting us a painting for the raffle. Brenda said once the logo is set, she will fix all the paperwork. We can still email or talk to people about the event. We have some confirmed ad space already. Tracy DeJoy asked if past raffle contributors have been contacted. Sharon Ferris said it would be better if it came from people personally. MaryAnne talked about a potential new business to work with-Boston Barbell. They have partnered with Rec Department for strength training.

Basket for Library event – Brenda MacDonald said she has filled out the application for our donation. Dana Reardon and Denise Salemme are handling the basket. Are we sticking with the trivia theme? Dana said they thought that Family Night theme would be good. Darlene Torre said she has some things from another fundraiser she was working on that would work for this. Members should bring contributions to the next meeting.

Misc. other business – Blood Drive is October 29 at Saint Theresa Church Hall. Based on pints of blood collected, scholarships will be awarded. We help the National Honor Society with this, and they manage the distribution of any scholarships. Students run the portion during the day, and we run the evening. Starts at 2pm. Sharon usually gets there at 12:30 to help set up. She checks people in, gets drinks for the donors. It runs until 7, so she is done at 7:30. She brings any leftover snacks to the Boys and Girls Club. Tracy is going to work with Sharon on this. Brenda said she would like to start doing school outreach again at the PTO meetings. Introduce ourselves, tell them what we do, and let them know we need their help to keep things going. This will help with Class of raffle-winning school's PTO gets a donation. May get interest for trivia and maybe lead to a class sponsorship. Sharon said she will put together a list of what we need for class sponsorships. Brenda asked Sean Simonini to check our social media accounts to follow the different school groups.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Rosa, seconded by Sharon Ferris; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on November 6, 2024, at 7 PM in the Collins Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary

RECEIVED
2024 DEC -2 A 8:12
TOWN CLERK
BILLERICA