

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

November 6, 2024

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A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on November 6, 2024, in the Collins Room at the Town Hall.

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TOWN CLERK  
BILLERICA

Brenda MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

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

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October meeting by Larry Norman, seconded by Mike Rosa. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Chairperson Brenda MacDonald asked if anyone had anything to add to the miscellaneous business. Sharon Ferris said she would like to talk about the gift card program.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris reported that it is up to date. All thank you notes are out.

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Ferris reported that tax insert donations are still coming in. She is working with the Town Treasurer with the Bartholomew account. She received a report and will be reviewing it. Brenda asked if someone from Bartholomew would come to meet with us. Sharon said she would like them to come once a year. Larry Norman suggested June. We have our private awards at the June meeting. Larry suggested we have a special meeting for the Bartholomew visit. Sharon will contact them to arrange this.

Town Calendar updates – Brenda MacDonald said she will plan to contact the Superintendent about the teacher meeting before the school year starts. We can hopefully sell calendars and let teachers know about our fundraiser. Patty Membrino reported that we had 43 calendars left. The very rainy, shortened Yankee Doodle event hurt our sales. She also mentioned that when we were at Farmers Market in August it was threatening thunder showers so there was a smaller crowd then, too. Patty and Brenda had been talking about what to do with the leftover calendars. They proposed giving half to Project Support-a great way to introduce the calendar to new students- and give the remaining to the Food Pantry to distribute. Larry Norman suggested splitting the donation into three – Project Support, the Food Pantry and BEAM. Patty gave Mike Rosa, the buy-back sponsor, suggested donation amounts for the unsold calendars.

Scholarship updates – Sharon Ferris said she needs to start working on the 2025 scholarships. She has three to write but she cannot close out 2024 yet because ten students still have not accepted their awards. They have until the 15<sup>th</sup> of November or else they forfeit their award. The money goes back to the pool or to the account of the specific donor. MaryAnne Durand asked if the unclaimed money could go to the Continuation scholarship. Sharon said it is something we have discussed, and we will need to vote on it. Sharon also said that we need more Class of sponsors. She asked if someone would help with this. Sharon said that there is someone who makes large donations at the raffle time, and she will reach out to him to see if he wants to become a sponsor. Brenda mentioned a barber who is new in town and talked to us when we were at O'Connor's. He is interested in helping us out. She will contact him. Sharon mentioned the fact that we have a great robotics team at the High School, and it would be nice if we could get a

company to do a robotics scholarship. Denise Salemmé wanted clarification on what sponsorship entails as she knows people she could reach out to. Patty, Sharon, and Brenda explained about sponsorships.

Lottery and Fall raffles – Sharon Ferris reported that we had a successful lottery raffle in October. She has presales for the one in December. She would like a seasonal game for the one in December. Jim Spinale will let her know what game to get. She would like to kick off the raffle at the beginning of December and pull the winner by December 15<sup>th</sup>. As mentioned at the last meeting, the fall raffles did not do well, and we will look at it again next year, considering the suggestions that have been given to help improve the outcome.

Shawsheen Tech College Night update – Sharon Ferris and Brenda MacDonald went to this event. They thought it was beneficial. Many people stopped by their table. They had the “dollar bills” with information on them to hand out. Brenda will drop off more at the Tech for their Financial Aid night. She will update them each year. We could also have them at Yankee Doodle. Sharon thought the number of Billerica people was low. She did meet someone who works at Canobie Lake Park, so maybe that could be a connection for tickets for raffles. She also met someone from Middlesex Community College and got some information on the free tuition program. The students do not have to pay for anything as long as they fill out the FAFSA form. Sharon said she will need to draft a letter to the 6 or 7 students affected by this to say they need to provide a bill in order to get their scholarship. February 13 is BMHS Financial Aid/Scholarship information night.

Savers Drive – Sharon Ferris said we are still on track to get the unit delivered the week of Thanksgiving. She already has a lot of bags in her garage. She will be preparing notices to go out about the drive. No household goods this time. We received over \$800 during the September drive. Hopefully, this one will raise more. Brenda MacDonald will send something out to the principals to put in their newsletters.

Trivia Night – Brenda MacDonald told us the new logo is ready. The price per team is \$160; no other pricing has changed. She will prepare the paperwork soon. Sharon Ferris will send it out to the people on the list. We will also solicit. Jim Gately does the brochure-will ask him about the deadline for brochure info to be in. The event is February 7, and we usually need 10 days. The date will be the same for raffles and teams. Larry Norman suggested January 20, to give leeway for latecomers. The max is 55 teams. Brenda will reach out to past participants. Anyone with connections, reach out to their own. Aim for 50-60 raffle donations. Door prizes will be Dante’s chocolates that Brenda will get. We already have some of the supplies. Will make baskets of various donations from same area. MaryAnne Durand will contact the Billerica Federation of Teachers, golf places. Set meeting dates: Dec 4 at 6pm; Dec. 18 at 6pm; Jan. 8 at 6pm; Jan. 22 at 6pm. Will assume the meeting place will be same as regular meetings.

Basket for Library event – Denise Salemmé received various gift cards, s’mores making kit, popcorn, craft kits. It should be a fun basket.

Misc. other business – Blood Drive-Tracy DeJoy is going to take over this event going forward. Sharon Ferris said the past event went smoothly. Could always collect more but the Red Cross does not give us more-they do not have the staff. The High School side of the event is staffed more. The NHS handles the scholarships received for the drives-\$800. Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Will do a facebook post about it. BATV wants to partner with us to do a PSA. Sharon said that we have had some interest in the gift card program already. We are not calling it Scrip because no one knows what that means. Sharon explained the program to the group. Mike Rosa said it does not cost anyone anything, but

it makes some money for us. Sharon pointed out that there is no activation fee for Visa and American Express through this program. Dates are: order 11/14, delivery 11/19; order 12/6, delivery 12/10; order 12/16, delivery 12/20.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Rosa, seconded by Sean Simonini; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on December 4, 2024, at 7 PM in the Collins Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary