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BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

April 2, 2025

A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on April 2, 2025, in the Evelyn Haines 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, Mary Anne Durand, Mike Rosa, Darlene Torre, and Dana Reardon. Attending by Zoom was Sean Simonini. Those who were absent: Al Tassone, Tracy DeJoy, and Denise Salemme.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March meeting by Larry Norman, seconded by Mike Rosa. Darlene Torred abstained; the rest in attendance voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris said that correspondence is up to date.

Treasurer's report – Sharon Ferris reported that everything is up to date. She has moved most of the money for 2025 over. The remnants from Trivia have come in. The reports that need to go to National for scholarship and annual fee have been done and submitted. Trivia is 100% paid.

Class of updates - Brenda MacDonald reported that everything is packaged up. Mary Anne Durand has the tickets. She made stops to three different students to give them more tickets today. Val Murphy at the Ditson requested a letter in Spanish for one of the students. Brenda will send one. She will also send a copy to Mary Anne and Darlene Torre so they can have copies. People have already contributed gift cards for superlatives. Sharon Ferris will be reaching out to Kimball's. Let Mary Anne and Darlene know if you get any items for the students, teachers, and secretaries.

Scholarship updates – Sharon Ferris reported that no one has applied yet for the Ian Wilcox scholarship. Sharon has talked with Ian's sister, and she is open to having the scholarship open to a class of 2022 student to the present. The preference is for a BMHS student, but they will take Tech applicants. Sharon spoke to MassArt-there are 9 Billerica students currently attending there. She will be sending her flyer to MassArt and forward it to those students. April 15 will be the application deadline for that scholarship. As far as the applications in general, there do not seem to be as many. Everyone is going to have to provide a tuition bill in order to receive payment. There are 158 applicants and 153 scholarships at this point, for \$166,950. Our foundation scholarships total \$28,500.

Savers Kick Off Drive 3/2025 – Sharon Ferris said they got \$714.91 for the class of 2026. It was bumped up to \$750 by the sponsor. She is still having things dropped off at her house towards the next drive. We will take DVDs and CDs. Our next drive will have a delivery date of September 27, after Yankee Doodle.

Reminder, there will be a special meeting on April to approve the selection of the scholarships that will be done on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. That way we will not have to wait until our May meeting to approve and they can be turned over to the town sooner. Brenda MacDonald said she had contacted the Tech, and they will put us on first at the awards so that we can get back to the High School as the awards are on the same night. Dana Reardon is helping Sharon organize the scholarship data to help in the scoring process. Sharon will be sending out to sponsors who make their own choices.

Trivia night – The theme for next year is “food.” The date is February 6, 2026. Mickey Ouellette took our letter to the Elks. We will make sure to be clearer about no drinks being brought in. Brenda MacDonald is already working on the logo. Sharon Ferris will need something to upload on the website, and to blast on social media. Darlene Torre thought doing that in early September before the PTOs start planning their activities would be a good time to start that.

PTO collaborations – Brenda MacDonald and Jim Gately had gone to a couple of the schools. Brenda thinks we should try to do this yearly, in order to keep conversations going. Can talk about needing class of sponsors and the raffle. Mary Anne Durand asked if there was a field on the scholarship application for where they went to elementary school. Sharon Ferris said no, only asks if there is a scholarship related to a particular school. Mary Anne also suggested that if we could do a sort to be able to present to the PTOs that X number of kids from their school got scholarships. We liked that idea. Sharon said we could ask about their schools in the paperwork they have to submit to us when accepting their scholarship.

Calendar – Patty Membrino said that there will be art shows coming up-at BATV and the High School-that she is planning to attend to take pictures of artwork. She will be working on the letters to send out to the monthly sponsors. Brenda MacDonald has applied for a day at the Farmer’s Market in August for us to go and sell. Mike Rosa said he will be the buy-back sponsor again next year.

Misc. other business – Brenda MacDonald thanked all those who were able to help staple the raffle ticket packets together. She wants to remind everyone that we will need a quorum at our special meeting in order to vote to approve the scholarships. Zoom will be available. Town meeting starts up May 6, so concession help will be appreciated. Sharon Ferris is usually there at 6pm. Jim Gately will make an announcement. Out of district awards will be at our June meeting at BATV. Tracy DeJoy took over the Blood Drive, and Sharon said thank you. 47 pints were collected in the afternoon, and the National Honor Society is on track to receive \$2500 in scholarships. The next Drive is November 19<sup>th</sup> at the hall at St. Theresa Church.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Rosa, seconded by Larry Norman; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 7, 2025, at 7 PM in the Haines Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary