

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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September 4, 2024

A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on September 4, 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, Jim Spinale, Patty Membrino, Brenda MacDonald, Jim Gately, Tracy DeJoy, Denise Salemmme, Dana Reardon, Mike Rosa, MaryAnne Durand, and Sean Simonini. Darlene Torre and Larry Norman came in after the meeting started. Those who were absent: Al Tassone.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the July meeting by Jim Gately, seconded by Mike Rosa. Tracy DeJoy abstained; the rest present voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris reported that she is up to date on incoming donations thank you notes. She is not up to date on the sponsor notes- "meet your student" and balance updates.

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Ferris said it is up to date. Recently received \$3 tax donation and some money from calendar sales, this evening. There is not much activity during the summer.

Calendar Updates – Patty Membrino reported that there are calendars at the Town Clerk's office-they have sold 15 and will be getting more. The Library has sold 16 and got another 20. We sold 24 at the Farmers Market. Back-to-School nights are coming up. High School is on Sept. 11, and MaryAnne Durand will cover that school. The middle schools will be the next night. Dana Reardon and Denise Salemmme will cover the Locke and Patty will cover the Marshall. The elementary schools are on the 19th. Ditson-Dana; Parker-Brenda MacDonald; Hajjar-Tracy DeJoy; Kennedy-Denise; and Dutile-MaryAnne. Patty and Brenda will be getting the boxes ready. There will be a box for each school containing calendars, replicas and our fall raffle tickets, plus tablecloth and flyers and instructions. You will be contacted when it is ok to pick up the boxes from Brenda's house. They should be returned there, also. People can pay by cash, check or venmo. Please bring change with you. If they are interested but unable to purchase that night, let them know about Yankee Doodle and library and Town Clerk's office. When paying by venmo, have them put what it is that they are purchasing, and have them show you that it went through.

Scholarship Updates – As far as regular scholarship business, Sharon Ferris said there is not much going on. She is still tracking some students for their information. As far as our new scholarship, Sharon said we have 13 applicants for the class of 2023; 7 for the class of 2022; and 7 for the class of 2021. We plan to give out one for each class. September 15 is the application deadline. The notification will be done in early October. We will pick the recipients at the October meeting. We will choose back-ups, also. Brenda MacDonald wanted to talk about the Community Colleges-they are now free for students who completed a FAFSA. We have 7 students from the 2024 graduating class stating that they will be going to Middlesex. They do have the option to defer-usually that is for one year, but we could change it to 3 years so if they plan to go on past Middlesex. Mike Rosa said he wanted to play devil's advocate- the students are getting school for free for 2 years, so why not take the money and give it out to other students. There was debate amongst the group on how we should handle this new situation. Larry Norman asked what exactly is

covered as "free." We need clarification of what this actually covers. Sharon is going to check with Dollars for Scholars to see if they have any information on this subject.

Lottery and fall raffles – Brenda MacDonald and Sharon Ferris are sponsoring two raffles, same as last year. One will be the Davis Farmland, \$5 and the other is a scary one, Hysteria at Connors Farm in Danvers, \$10. MaryAnne Durand said she has a Galaxy tablet that she would like to donate for us to use as a raffle or prize. Will probably be used for Trivia raffle. The lottery raffle will be moved to October so that it does not compete with our other raffles. Sharon told us that she wrote notes to various places looking for donations for the raffle. Davis Farmland donated the 4-pack of tickets. She also got a check from Parkers Maple Barn for \$1500. She thought we could use that as a scholarship. Jim Gately made a motion to make a scholarship for \$1500 in the name of Parkers Maple Barn; seconded by Mike Rosa; unanimously approved.

Yankee Doodle, 9/21/24 – We have a booth. We will sell calendars, replicas, and the raffles. Darlene Torre had an idea for the kids' craft-painting rocks. Whoever wants to come, all welcome. Patty and Larry will be there to set up with Brenda. We have to be set up by 10:30. The parade starts at 10:00am.

Savers Drive – Sharon Ferris said we are having two drives. The big one will be January 4th. Brenda got us a free unit again. It will be brought to Sharon's house Nov. 25th, delivered to Savers on Jan. 4. The last couple of years we have received books from the library after their book sale Yankee Doodle weekend. Sept. 21 through Oct. 4 will do a pickup of books. If you know of anyone who has to books to give. In the past, Brenda has messaged people doing yard sales. Sharon will be delivering to Savers Oct. 5th. Will not be getting a unit. Books and linens for both drives. Household items take up a lot of space and we do not get very much money for them, so do not want to collect those. Sharon found out from Savers that the books are redistributed to other places to be sold-not destroyed. We always say we would like student involvement-this would be good for Spirit week. Need to talk to the principal or advisors. Will do a flyer for Savers and share on social media.

Trivia – Brenda MacDonald said she was going to play around with the working logo we have right now. Jim Gately said he would help. MaryAnne asked if it was ok to start asking for ads. Brenda said it is fine-the prices are staying the same. The only price change is the team entrance fee. Dana Reardon and Denise Salemme are going to work on the raffle basket for the Holiday Festival. MaryAnne said she thinks she can get a basket to use. The theme is Famous Families. Mike Rosa, Darlene Torre, and Marc Lombardo have all confirmed their ads for the book. Brenda said she will start next month contacting people.

Misc. other business – Sharon Ferris said that her friend, Reid is trying to help fix, update our website. Please send Sharon anything you think needs to be updated. Brenda MacDonald said she went to Market Basket to write down prices for what she spends on baking for Town Meeting concessions-roughly \$80. She also would like money for betterment of baskets for our Trivia raffle, and we need promotional items. Sharon said we made about \$540 from spring concessions. We could use weights for our tent. We talk more at our next meeting. Brenda had prices for many things before. We do not have anymore encumbered money. Patty Membrino asked where will the money come from for this purpose? She definitely agrees that we should have money for these things. She cannot see using fundraising money for this, though. She thinks it should come from the money we get from the town. We usually pay the cost of printing calendars and trivia books with it, but she thinks we should pay for those items out of the money we get from the event. Mike Rosa suggested making two lists-items that we need; items for promotions.

Jim Spinale brought up that Yankee Doodle gets money from the town-more than us. Why can't we get more? Darlene Torre said BSAP gets more money than us. Mike Rosa said he will look into this.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 2, 2024, at 7 PM in the Collins Room at the Town Hall.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Rosa, seconded by Jim Gately; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary