

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

March 5, 2025

A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on March 5, 2025, in the Evelyn Haines Room at the Town Hall.

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

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

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

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris said that it is up to date, except for what has just come in-tax insert donations. Brenda MacDonald has sent out her thank you notes for Trivia.

Treasurer's report – Sharon Ferris reported that everything is up to date. February 28 was the end of the funding year for the class of 2025 scholarships.

Trivia Wrap-up – Sharon Ferris reported that she has \$300 outstanding in ad money but just received \$75 tonight. She will be receiving the rest of the money this week. This is a breakdown of money received: \$7680 from the teams; \$5510 in ads; \$1800 from 50/50 raffle; \$335 from silent auction- \$135 for Bruins package and \$200 for the Celtics; \$1730 for raffle tickets day of; \$325 for this or that and buy an answer; \$12 donation at concession table. The total Sharon has for what we made is \$17,093. This total does not include what ad money we have not received yet. Our expenses were \$750 for printing the brochure and \$270 for the Elks Hall. Brenda MacDonald said we did well. She was hoping for \$20,000, but happy with the result. Larry Norman was wondering if the woman from the Elks who was walking around had an effect on ticket sales. The Elks was concerned about people bringing in their own beverages. Jim Spinale explained that it is part of the deal we have with the Elks – people can not bring in their own beverages, including water and soda. We will need to be better at enforcing this ourselves next year. Denise Salemme said there were people with questions at the table about Buy an answer, etc. Jim Gately said that we can make a posterboard with everything spelled out. This is all listed in the brochure. We did not have a speaker in the back but there was no problem with that. O'Connor's team winning was awesome-they were so surprised. Brenda made them a poster with their picture.

Scholarship updates – Sharon Ferris reported that the Yankee Doodle committee funds the Yankee Doodle scholarship. The Kent Scholarship is all set. The check was found, and the scholarship will no longer be restricted to the two schools. We received money from the Community Funds Grant-\$3333. This money is for our Continuing Scholarships for classes 2022 and 2023- two \$1500. Any uncollected money can be used for this continuing scholarship also. The presentation of the grant money will be on March 17. Sharon will not be able to attend that night so someone will have to accept it in her place. There were some 2024 scholarships that were not accepted-the students did not provide their school's name or their social security numbers. We have to wait a year before we can use that money. Tracy DeJoy asked if whoever received the continuation scholarship before can apply again. The answer is yes because it was a random drawing. We can decide later if we want to add more criteria for choosing candidates. Dates decided for

scoring of this year's scholarships: Wednesday, April 16 and the awarding will be Wednesday, April 23. We will try to book the room we are meeting in. Sharon said we have 146 scholarships open, for a total of \$159,450. That is not a set number. Some donors end up giving out multiple awards, and some scholarships are not open yet because we have not received the funds. Tracy asked if new ones come in late, would we extend the application time? Sharon said it will depend on the situation.

Savers Kick Off Drive 3/2025 – Sharon Ferris said we will be collecting until March 21-delivery to Savers is March 22. We will take books as well as bags of clothing.

Class of Fundraiser – The fundraiser starts April 1st. Darlene Torre and Mary Anne Durand said they will run this. Brenda MacDonald said she has everything prepared. The tickets are ordered. They will need to be stapled into lots of 5; there are five colors-one for each class. It runs from April 1 through April 30. We will be putting in a sheet with the parents' letter asking for class sponsors. Brenda had a sample that she passed around for us to comment on. Sharon Ferris commented that the color would be more to print, but Brenda said it would be worth the cost. People had suggestions on the size of certain words. Hopefully, people will call us with their questions about sponsorship. Sharon said she can start getting labels on envelopes. Brenda was wondering if we could allocate one of our lottery raffles a year to a class without a sponsor. We need to start working on superlative prizes. We will decide on the superlatives when we know how many prizes we get. Need small amounts- \$10-\$15. Sharon mentioned that she is submitting the \$750 for the trivia ad book to town from our funds. Could not submit without a receipt or invoice.

Misc. other business – Football raffle-it was asked how many tickets had been sold. Can we put out a poster-Gronk's birthday is in May. Jim Spinale wrote a letter to Gronk's organization. Brenda MacDonald told us that the awards night for the High School and the Tech are on the same night. There was disappointment about this. Tracy DeJoy is disappointed because she is the class of sponsor and did it in memory of parents. She will unfortunately be unable to attend that evening. Patty Membrino suggested that she write up what she wanted to say, and someone could read it for her that evening. The Tech awards are at the Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks. Brenda brought up that she is planning on stepping down as chairperson. She will stay in the position until September and in the meantime limit her involvement in things. She will stay on as a committee member. She has confidence that we will be fine. Jim Gately thanked her for staying on and it is an opportunity for us as a committee to get more involved.

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

The next regular meeting will be held on April 2, 2025, at 7 PM in the Haines Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary