

BILLERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

May 7, 2025

A meeting of the Billerica Scholarship Foundation was held on May 7, 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, Patty Membrino, Brenda MacDonald, Mary Anne Durand, Mike Rosa, Darlene Torre, Denise Salemme, and Dana Reardon. Attending by Zoom was Jim Spinale. Those who were absent: Al Tassone, Tracy DeJoy, Jim Gately, and Sean Simonini.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April meeting by Larry Norman, seconded by Denise Salemme. All in attendance voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Sharon Ferris said that she is behind in correspondence. She is purposefully holding off until after the awards night so that she can include information about the recipients in the letters to the sponsors.

Treasurer's report – Sharon Ferris reported that everything is up to date. She has four checks to deposit. She is working with the Town Treasurer for balances.

Class of updates – Mary Anne Durand picked up all the tickets and money and delivered to Sharon Ferris yesterday. She will be picking up at Griggs on Friday, the gift for the teacher of the student who sold the most tickets. She does not know the number of superlatives yet. \$1718 was the total of the first pick up. Sharon has not tallied last night's drop off.

Scholarship Awards and Attendance at Ceremonies – Members planning to be at the Tech awards: Brenda MacDonald, Patty Membrino, Mike Rosa, Darlene Torre, and Jim Spinale. Sharon Ferris knows the sponsors who will be attending at the Tech: the Fullertons, North Billerica Smiles, usually the Pulliam family and the Rotary. Everyone in attendance at this meeting is planning on being at the awards at the High School. Out of district awards will be presented at our June meeting. The meeting will start at 6:30 at BATV and the awards will be presented after the meeting. Sharon said in the past she has given out letters stating the award they are receiving as well as FAQs and W-9s. She was thinking of this year doing certificates, the FAQs, W-9s and thank you notes for them to send to the sponsor. She also made up a card asking them for information, such as elementary and middle schools attended; what kinds of awards would you have liked to have seen. For example, we have a great robotics team so it would be nice to have an award geared to that. This year the students will have to submit tuition bills. Sharon is working on getting the program information to the schools. Upperclassmen awards – the money comes from the Community grant and awards not redeemed from 2024. The application time will be August 1 through 31st. Mary Anne Durand mentioned that a parent she talked to was disappointed that the essay did not come into play in selection of the awards. We had decided that anyone who fulfilled all application requirements was equally eligible for the scholarship. Patty Membrino suggested that we could look at the essays now since we did not get that many applications last year. Larry Norman agreed, noting that last year it was new for us, and we were rushing to make it happen. Larry Norman made a motion that the upperclassmen awards be based on merit this year; Mike Rosa seconded; all voted in favor.

Calendar – Patty Membrino said that we went to two art shows to take pictures of artwork for the calendar. She has sent out letters to the monthly sponsors asking them if they would like to repeat their sponsorship. We have had some responses back- Holiday Festival, Rep. Marc Lombardo, Bertolucci family, the Giroux family, Enterprise Bank. America's Auto Auction has already paid. Patty will start changing the dates and having the artwork pictures added. Jim Spinale asked about the Enterprise Bank merger. Patty said we would deal with it however Enterprise Bank would like us to.

June Scratch ticket Raffle – Jim Spinale said he will email Sharon Ferris his choice for the game. Sharon said we will kick it off June 2nd.

Savers Drive – Sharon Ferris said that there are incentives for books, so keep our eyes open for book donations. We will of course take clothing. The pickup will be on September 27th. She will start posting about it on August 1st.

Town Meeting – Sharon Ferris said we raised \$239 the first night, and her sister has some late donations. They were trying to get Jim Gately to mention the Class of and that we are looking for sponsors. It was a very hectic first night so that did not happen. Hopefully, he will be able to tomorrow night. Thank you to everyone who baked.

Misc. other business – Brenda MacDonald mentioned the different items that have been donated by members for the grill package for the first-place prize of the Class of raffle. The drawing will be at O'Connor's Hardware on May 15 at 6PM. Brenda said we need to start filling out the paperwork for Yankee Doodle. We need an idea for a children's craft. Brenda thought about an art student doing face painting. Mike Rosa suggested caricatures and Mary Anne Durand suggested a magician. Brenda will reach out to an art teacher she knows to see about caricatures. Larry Norman and Patty Membrino will be there to set up for Yankee Doodle, as well as anyone else who can.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Larry Norman, seconded by Mike Rosa; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on June 4, 2025, at 6:30 PM at BATV on Boston Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Membrino, Secretary