

**BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Wendy Harrington. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Deneen Azzolino, Ken Dykstra, Jane Sipila, Kerri Osborne, Martha Ennis, Alexandra Smith, Amy Clark, Carolyn Otto, Lisa Burbank and Patricia Ball arrived slightly after. Excused absences: Diane Wimmer , Beverly Spink, and Desiree Burlingame.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2026 meeting as emailed to board members. So Voted.

Treasurer's Report: (Delayed until after Library Director's Evaluation) Treasurer Patricia Ball presented a Profit and Loss Budget for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 which showed total income of \$159,873.12, total expenses of \$160,884.46, interest income of \$6,853.46, and other expense of \$15,249.00 (returned to town) for a net income of - \$9,406.88 . Contributing to this was the unexpected expense of \$10,300 for wall repairs. After discussion, motion was made by Jane Sipila and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept said report. So Voted.

Library Director's Report: After annual review, Martha Ennis is recommended to continue as a librarian/clerk. Our new librarian/Clerk is Lisa Joseph who began work on May 26th. She comes to us from having worked at Prudence Crandall Museum, Mystic Seaport Museum and has library experience from many years ago. Her 90-day probation will end on October 28th.

Another successful Summer Reading Program with 194 participants. There were 3 special one-time programs with sign-ups of 56 participants. Additional programs were a tie-dye event in June, a program from James L. Goodwin Park and Conservation Center through DEEP and Dinosaur State Park with a box turtle and hissing cockroach, and a spelling bee in August. A nautical-themed spelling bee is planned for late September or early October. Attempts by The Friend of the Library to secure an ice cream truck for the end of summer reading celebration was unsuccessful, but The Friends purchased and delivered novelties instead of cones. The attendance for the event suffered due to last-minute changes to its date.

Summer volunteers Lisa Kallio and her son and Devi and Mishti Patel-Gandi were of great help.

In adopting a Kilingly Library idea of showing your library card to receive discounts for a limited time at local businesses, Lisa suggested we do it for Black Friday and the holiday season.

The library will have a table at the upcoming Brooklyn School BBQ on September 10th with library information and library card sign-ups. The Friends of the Library will provide information about membership and will have handouts despite being unable to attend.

Jamie Long of Apex Remodeling has visited the library to see about the various window repairs that need to be done. He has yet to start on the project, but estimates the cost will not exceed \$2,500. Hopefully the repairs can be completed before winter arrives.

There was a short in an upstairs light switch and Anderson Electric was contacted. They replaced that switch as well as others on that bank of switches and replaced the electrical outlet there also as a safety precaution. Cost of the project was \$250.

Motion made by Carolyn Otto and seconded by Jane Sipila to accept the Library Director's Report. So Voted.

Friends of the Library: Kerri Osborne said she hopes to have a meeting of The Friends by October. She and Samantha Stiles seem to be the only active members of the group. Kerri would like to meet with Wendy and Deneen to discuss what the library is looking to achieve, what The Friends need to fundraise for, the focus of The Friends toward a new library, and how to attract new members.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Library Facility Committee Update: No further meetings have been scheduled since First Selectman, Joe Bellavance, halted our plans to move forward on our own for a new library. First Selectman's next plan is to form a committee to plan the future of the Village Center District. The library will have representation on that committee. The Town's Long Range Planning Committee has not met since February of this year. They posted agendas for March through August meetings, all of which were cancelled. There is a petition form at our circulation desk about our need for a new library and we have collected more than 4 pages of signatures. The forms are forwarded to the First Selectman.

Hiring of New Librarian Clerk: Already reported under Library Director's Report.

Association Membership: Thanks to Martha Ennis, recruiting of new members can now be done digitally on our website. Our online catalog includes a heading for accessing association membership information also. A few people at Kindergarten Orientation at school took membership sign up cards with them and have returned them to the library.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Board Resignation: Charlene Hill plans to possibly move out of state for health reasons and not being able to attend many meetings prompted her to tender her resignation from the board on May 21st. At our annual meeting that vacancy will be filled by moving up alternate Amy Clark. The alternate position vacancy will be filled by the Nominating Committee to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Library Director's Evaluation: The evaluation committee of Wendy Harrington, Deneen Azzolino, Jane Sipila, and Beverly Spink met in June and recommended that Lisa Burbank continue her employment as Library Director for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Motion made by Amy Clark and seconded by Alexandra Smith to accept said recommendation. So Voted.

Appointment of Nominating Committee: Board members were asked if they wished to continue on the board for another year. The Nominating Committee will consist of Wendy Harrington as Chairman, Jane Sipila, and Deneen Azzolino. Wendy Harrington announced that this may be her last term as President.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be on Monday, November 2nd. Wendy has already reserved the Brooklyn Middle School for 7:00 PM for a brief Executive Board meeting to be followed at 7:30 PM by the annual association meeting.

Other: Kerri suggested that at the annual meeting there be a presentation as to what our meaningful goals are and show that we met them. Tell what new programs were based on patron input. This would also help with budget presentations to the town.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Amy Clark to adjourn the meeting. So Voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington, President