

**BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2023**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by President Wendy Harrington. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Joe Asermelly, Renee Messier, Ken Dykstra, Beverly Spink, Diane Wimmer, Deneen Azzolino, Carolyn Otto, Samantha Stiles, Desiree Burlingame, Kerri Osborne, and Lisa Burbank. Excused absences: Joanne Lantry and Jane Sipila. Absent: Charlene Hill.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion was made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Carolyn Otto to accept the minutes as emailed to board members. So Voted.

Treasurer's Report: Renee Messier presented a Profit & Loss Statement for July 1, 2022 through January 23, 2023. It showed total income of \$118,665.11, total expenses of \$62,970.99 with a net ordinary income of \$55,694.12. Other income from interest was \$376.98 which brought the net income to \$56,071.10. After minimal discussion, motion was made by Kerri Osborne and seconded by Samantha Stiles to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. So Voted.

Interim Library Director's Report: Lisa Burbank stated that she had contacted The Salvation Army about taking discarded books. They will take only children's books and those will be picked out of books that have been weeded to be given to them.

Lisa announced that The Friends of the Library have paid for museum passes to Old Sturbridge Village, Florence Griswold Museum and the Mashentucket Pequot Museum. The applications were filed and passes have been coming in. Diane Wimmer asked that these passes be advertised on the library's Facebook page.

The State's theme for 2023 summer reading is Find Your Voice which focuses on singing, poetry, writing, acting and theater. Materials for that theme will be ordered.

February 4th is Take Your Child to the Library Day and February 11th there will be a Valentine's Day themed story time. Materials already on hand will be used for Valentine Crafts.

Lisa had contacted Canterbury Library regarding the Adopt A Book Program. Pictures of book covers will be posted on a bulletin board. Patrons may select a book to purchase for the library, a book plate inside will commemorate their donation, and they will be given first choice on borrowing said book.

The Seed Catalog project will continue this year; the state is offering 200 seed packets once again. Lisa would possibly like to do a kids' gardening program outdoors where each participant would take home a plant.

A survey of patrons favored Tuesday for a weekday story time. Instead of doing a craft, an "in motion" activity would be led by Librarian/Clerk Lisa Kallio who has experience with such.

Quiet Corner Reads and the First Selectman have been emailed regarding the State's Legislation S.B.500: An Act Concerning Electronic Book and Digital Audiobook Licensing which refers to eBooks and price gouging. Essentially, CT libraries pay 6 times what consumers pay for

the same eBook, they can only keep the eBook for 2 years after which time they expire and must be paid for again.

Lisa asked the board members why the Library is not on Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn. We are currently only on Facebook. It was suggested that we only expand to being on Instagram and not Twitter or LinkedIn.

New board members Kerri Osborne and Samantha Stiles asked that Lisa have the school informed of Take Your Child to the Library Day (and other library activities) so that it will be put in the newsletter parents receive weekly.

President Harrington asked if there would be displays of adult and children's books going up in conjunction with Black History Month February 1-March 1. Lisa will do so.

Motion was made by Beverly Spink and seconded by Diane Wimmer to accept the Interim Library Director's report as given. So Voted.

Friends of the Library: President Diane Wimmer reported that the \$2,500 check toward the purchase price of the new book drop had been delivered to us as well as the checks to fund the previously mentioned museum passes. She and Lisa Lindia have done all they can and no one has come forward to take over. Their funds will most likely be turned over to the library and could be put aside to continue funding museum passes.

OLD BUSINESS:

ARPA Funds Update: President Harrington had attended the town forum on November 28, 2022. All approved applications were now passed to NECCOG to be sure they were in compliance with ARPA rules for which funding could be received. It sounded like money would not be coming soon. Part of funds we applied for were to replace library lighting and do electrical upgrades. Currently we have 3 sections of the library where ballasts have burned out. The estimate to replace just those affected areas was \$1,517, but if we fix those sections before getting ARPA money, we cannot use ARPA money as a reimbursement for work already done. Wendy sent a letter to First Selectman Tanner expressing the urgency of the need for money to do our lighting project. Library board member Ken Dykstra, who is on the ARPA Committee, reported that he was sure our application still qualified and that funds would be distributed before long. Funds had already been distributed to another applicant. As a result, we should wait and not proceed with fixing just the burned out lighting at our expense.

NEW BUSINESS:

Old Posters: Three old posters commemorating historical events were discovered in a table drawer. Their possible value had been explored. It was suggested that Elaine Knowlton of the Brooklyn Historical Society be contacted by Lisa Burbank about how to preserve them and it was suggested that they could be properly framed to be hung in a future library facility.

Quiet Corner Reads – Cost of Book Pages Magazine: We had been paying for a few years for 25 copies of this monthly publication that went on display for patrons to take. There had been a significant increase in price and with only about 3 copies ever being taken each month, we have cancelled getting them.

Brooklyn Parks & Recreation: New director, Renee Sangermano, informed us that she is no longer allowing Parks & Rec to do our snow removal; it has been turned over to the Public Works Department. She has also proposed that the Recreation Department, Senior Center, and Library all collaborate on the twice a year brochures the Recreation Department sends out in Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. She would like library activities in the publication and therefore have us pay 1/3 of the \$650-\$700 postage expense. That would cost us \$217-233. We could not bet back to her with our decision before the Jan. 12th deadline for the Spring/Summer Brochure. Right now the library has a business card type ad in that brochure which we pay for. The library would not always have the information on upcoming events for the next 2 seasons before any publication info deadlines.

Starting again this summer (after 2 years of Covid funds from the town covering the cost) we will have to reimburse the Recreation Department for the salary of the summer camp reading room employee. It would be \$16.00 per hour (\$1.00 over minimum wage) x 40 hrs. per week x 6 weeks or \$3,840. Ms. Sangermano quoted Lisa Burbank that it would cost us \$4,160, which equates to a wage of \$17.25.

After much discussion, it was decided that we are willing to advertise in the brochure, but not pay for 1/3 of the postage and that we would only pay \$3,840 toward the \$4160 Ms. Sangermano wants to pay the summer recreation reading room employee. Wendy Harrington will inform her of such and will be checking with former Recreation Director, Bucky Lohbusch, as to how the arrangement of reimbursing Rec for the reading room employee's wages ever came about.

2023-2024 Library Budget. President Harrington announced that the Budget Committee will meet on February 6th to work on the budget. Diane Wimmer asked if we have had any input from the town as to what they are looking at for budget increases. We have not been told.

Other: President Harrington announced that board member Jane Sipila's husband had unexpectedly passed away January 11th. In consideration for all that Jane has done for the library as a board member and weekly volunteer, motion was made by Joe Asermelly and seconded by Beverly Spink to send a donation from the Brooklyn Town Library Association, in memory of George Sipila, to Friends of Webster, for the Boy Scout Camp in Ashford, CT. So Voted.

Amazon Smile: This program, which began in 2013, is ending on February 20, 2023. People could choose the library as their charity to receive 0.5% of their Amazon purchases. Over the years we have received a total of \$714.47.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Desiree Burlingame and seconded by Carolyn Otto to adjourn the meeting. So Voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington, Secretary

