

**BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**129<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**AT THE BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Wendy Harrington. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Renee Messier, Lisa Burbank, Deneen Azzolino, Diane Wimmer, Carolyn Otto, Charlene Hill, Joe Asermelly, Kerri Osborne, Valerie Downs, Joan Duignan, Amy Clark, Bethany DeNolfo, Marie Dusseault, Khela McGann, Desiree Burlingame, and Arlene Baril. Excused absences: Joanne Lantry, Beverly Spink, Linda Mark, and Jessica Tracy.

**Secretary's Minutes:** The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read by Secretary Wendy Harrington. It was noted that under Friends of the Library Lisa Lindia should have been referred to as Treasurer instead of Vice President. Correction was made. Motion was made by Joe Asermelly and seconded by Charlene Hill to accept the corrected minutes as read. So Voted

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Renee Messier presented a Profit & Loss Statement for July 2021 to June 2022 showing total income of \$147,148.79, expenses of \$185,402.76, plus interest income of \$101.43 leaving net of -\$38,152.43. Though this shows a minus figure, the library is not in the red. When you add back in the two PPP loans of \$16,662.34, the \$14,920.00 returned to the town, and the building maintenance of \$19,505.50 (mostly due to the new furnace and air conditioning) the bottom line is \$12,935.41. The Balance Sheet for June 30, 2022 showed total assets of \$195,689.34, total liabilities of \$20,478.21 with total equity of \$175,211.13. The Profit & Loss Statement for July 1, 2022-November 7, 2022 showed total income of \$39,176.68, total expenses of \$41,170.23, and interest income of \$28.50 showing net income of -\$1965.05. We are still awaiting income of \$2,500 from The Friends which they voted in June to give us towards the purchase of our new book drop.

There was much discussion about the return of the \$14,920 to the town. Renee reported that it made a problem for our accountant, Dan Santos, who is currently preparing our 990 return. It would have to be reported as a donation to the town when he said it should not have been returned to the town in the first place. Motion was made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Marie Dusseault to accept the treasurer's reports as given. So Voted

**Interim Library Director's Report:** Lisa Burbank, the library's Interim Library Director, who was appointed on September 6<sup>th</sup>, gave the report which mostly covered information compiled from the previous fiscal year by former Library Director Elizabeth Swagger. Lisa had updated the information to show a comparison between the past 2 fiscal years. Total book circulation had increased from 5,497 to 8,921. Other library materials such as Audiobooks, DVDs, Interlibrary loans and books borrowed by Brooklyn Summer Recreation had increased from 645 to 706. Overall total material circulation had increased from 6,142 to 9,627. Our total number of items in the library collection decreased from 29,167 to 22,546 due to a complete weeding of books that had not been borrowed in the past 7-10 years. The number of patrons with registered barcoded library cards decreased from 6,007 to 5,670 due to updating of the patron list that had not been done previously and is still in progress. Joe Asermelly asked Lisa if there was a target amount of how many books to have in our collection. Lisa said there is

currently a bigger demand for audio books and she wants to increase that collection. She estimated there is room to increase the current collection of items from 22,546 to 25,000. Motion was made by Diane Wimmer and seconded by Carolyn Otto to accept the Interim Library Director's report as given. So Voted.

**Free Public Library:** Motion was made by Charlene Hill and seconded by Deneen Azzolino for us to remain a free public library. So Voted

**President's Report:** President Wendy Harrington reported it had been another year of changes, starting with the change in hours the library is open, driven by patron data collected. Our post office style book return has been replaced with a modern weather-proof one. In the spring, a New Library Facility Committee was formed to begin exploring the possibility of venturing out on our own instead of waiting for the town to have a new town hall/library complex. An application was filed with the town's ARPA Committee to receive funding to replace library light fixtures, install additional electrical outlets, and to replace our sidewalk and front entrance to make it more accessible to those with mobility issues. Children's programming saw the introduction of story times. A record of over 70 children participated in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. In July there was the resignation of long-time Librarian/Clerk, Cassandra Leach, who had been an employee for 34 years. Also in July our Library Director for the past 15 months, Elizabeth Swagger, announced that she was leaving for financial reasons to return to a career as a registered nurse. Two new Librarian/Clerk's were hired to fill vacancies and former Librarian/Clerk, Lisa Burbank, was hired as Interim Library Director. It was announced that on July 29, 2023 the Brooklyn Town Library Association will be celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of having been granted a charter by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut. Going forward the library's main focus will be on community outreach and children's programming. At the conclusion of the President's Report, it was suggested by association member, Kerri Osborne, that we turn that 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration into some sort of fundraiser. Motion was made by Joe Asermelly and seconded by Charlene Hill to accept the President's Report as given. So Voted.

**Friends of the Library:** President Diane Wimmer said that membership letters had gone out and that the response had been better than usual, yet no one offered to take over and lead the group. She announced that this was the last year for she and Treasurer Lisa Lindia to be in charge of The Friends. They will stay on to do the 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) paperwork, but would officially be done in August of 2023. Diane asked that the Interim Director give her a list of requests for The Friends to contribute toward such as museum passes and a book discussion group.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee of Wendy Harrington, Chairman, Beverly Spink, and Deneen Azzolino submitted the following slate of officers and Executive Board Members for 2022-2023: Officers: President Wendy Harrington, Vice President Joe Asermelly, Secretary Wendy Harrington, and Treasurer Renee Messier. Executive Board Members: Ken Dykstra, Beverly Spink, Diane Wimmer, Joanne Lantry, Jane Sipila, Carolyn Otto, Deneen Azzolino, and Charlene Hill. Alternates: Samantha Stiles, Desiree Burlingame and a vacancy exists. The following persons have agreed to become members of the Brooklyn Town Library Association: Bethany DeNolfo 70 Christian Hill Road and Amy Clark 454 Wolf Den Road. Nominations from the floor: Diane Wimmer nominated Kerri Osborne to fill the alternate vacancy; Joe Asermelly seconded. Motion was made by Diane Wimmer and

seconded by Deneen Azzolino to close the nominations. So Voted. The secretary cast one ballot for the acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report.

**OLD BUSINESS :** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion was made by Diane Wimmer and seconded by Carolyn Otto to adjourn. So Voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington, Secretary