

**BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MAY 20, 2026**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Wendy Harrington. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Deneen Azzolino, Patricia Ball, Ken Dykstra, Jane Sipila, Kerri Osborne, Desiree Burlingame, Martha Ennis, Alexandra Smith, Amy Clark, and Lisa Burbank. Excused absences: Diane Wimmer and Beverly Spink. Absent: Charlene Hill. Carolyn Otto arrived at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2026 meeting as emailed to board members. So Voted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Patricia Ball presented a Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for July 1, 2025 through May 20, 2026 which showed total income of \$159,459.25, total expenses of \$136,376.81, interest income of \$6,256.13, and other expense of \$15,249 (returned to town) for a net income of \$14,089.57. After some discussion, motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept said report. So voted.

Library Director's Report: Lisa Burbank reported that Deborah Schander of the CT State Library visited on April 13, 2026 and toured the library and observed Story Time. A card was later received from her expressing her thanks and saying how wonderful it was to see the library so full of children and families.

Librarian/Clerk Lisa Kallio submitted her resignation on April 16th with a planned last day of April 29th, however she worked through part of the day on May 4th to help organize the first story time without her. She and her son hope to continue as volunteers. Motion made by Kerri Osborne and seconded by Amy Clark to accept said report.

Friends of the Library: Kerri Osborne reported that The Friends will be sending out their annual meeting letter and hope to offer Zoom as an attendance option. She is in the process of getting funds for the season passes from their treasurer. As reported previously, they will still sponsor a puppet show and the end-of-summer reading celebration. She suggested a flyer go to school children about the passes we offer. Looking ahead to fall is the possibility of a book sale or a literacy carnival event at the Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Library Facility Committee Update: Wendy reported that First Selectman Joe Bellavance attended the March 24th meeting and toured the library. Though he agrees that we need a new library, he announced that he will not support, nor ask the town to support, us having plans drawn at our expense for a separate facility. Joe wants a combined library/town hall campus like Putnam and Canterbury have so that it becomes the community gathering place. We have contacted the 4 architects who submitted RFPs to tell them we cannot proceed at this time. Now that the budgets have passed, Joe wants to form a committee to plan Brooklyn's needs in the next five years. There will be a committee formed and there will be

representation from the library association on that committee. A new library will now most likely be pushed out another five years.

2026-2027 Proposed Budget: Wendy gave a handout showing the upcoming and past two fiscal year budget requests, approved request amounts and funds returned to the town. On March 16th we returned \$15,249 to the town representing unused funds from the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Our 2026-2027 proposed budget of \$169,065 was reduced to \$146,911 (\$10,000 less than our town grant for the previous two fiscal years). Town administrators had the biggest concern with the \$8,300 interest income earned on CDs in the previous fiscal year and us having CDs to go toward a new library.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hiring of a New Librarian/Clerk: The job was advertised in the Turnpike Buyer/Shopper's Guide, on social media, and on our website with a deadline to apply of May 15th. We had 10 applicants, have interviewed 3 people, and will interview our last person tomorrow. Decision to be made thereafter.

Ken asked how many volunteers we have and it was suggested that we let schools know that we have volunteer time available for students needing to fulfill their community service requirements.

Spending Down Remaining FY 2025-2026 Town Grant: By the end of the month we should have a better idea of any funds unspent from the town grant. Suggestions were offered as follows: Pre-paying on heating oil, purchasing two new file cabinets needed for record storage in treasurer's office, putting money on the Hoopla account, purchasing extra craft supplies, sensory toys that tend to be expensive, hiring a speaker to come for teens, having the windows caulked and checked for opening and cleaned inside and out and a library deep cleaning (already in the budget). A new printer/scanner/fax and supplies for it have already been purchased. The Finance Committee will meet to decide on purchases once the excess funds have been determined.

Set Next Meeting Date: Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Kerri suggested that in our efforts to want to increase association membership before the annual meeting, that we do it digitally on our website. It would need to be ready by August. Lisa and Martha will put this together.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Jane Sipila to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington, Secretary

