BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
133RD ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2026
AT BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Harrington at 7: PM. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Deneen Azzolino, Diane Wimmer, Ken Dykstra, Martha Ennis, Carolyn Otto, Beverly Spink, Amy Clark, Jane Sipila, Alexandra Smith, Desiree Burlingame, Jessical Tracy, Lilianna Azzolino, Michelle Shannon, Joanne Lantry, Linda Mark,Melody Ingalls, Arlene Szela, Ashley Ladero, Jan Zacharski, Krystal Shaw, Jo-Ann Pierpont, Petra Williams, Ailla Wasstrom-Evans, and Lisa Burbank. Excused absences: Hope Barton and Ruth Turner-Jones.

Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the November 3, 2025 annual meeting were read by secretary, Wendy Harrington. Motion was made by Joanne Lantry and seconded by Diane Wimmer to accept said minutes as read. So Voted

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Patricia Ball presented a Profit & Loss Statement for July 2025 through June 2026 showing total income of $159,873.12, total expenses of $160,053.14 for a net income of -$180.02 plus interest of $7,514,56 and return of grant funds of $15,249,00 for a total net income income of -$7,914.46. Balance Sheet presented as of June 30, 2026 showed total assets of $299,113.14, total liabilities of $183.60, plus equity of $298,929.54 to make total of liabilities and equity of $299,113.14. Another statement showed budget requests vs. Town Grants Received as follows: FY 2024-2025 requested $156,911; received $156,911 with $15,249 returned to the town. FY 21025-2026 requested $176,607; received $156,911 with no funds to return to the town. FY 2026-2027 requested $169,095; received $146,911. Motion made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept the Treasurer's Reports. So Voted

Library Director's Report: Library Director Lisa Burbank gave her report on circulation and materials data for July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025 vs. July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 Book circulation decreased by 2 books from 8,723 to 8,721. Circulation of other library materials decreased from 1,345 to 1,095 because of the significant drop in Audiobooks on CD going from 296 to 57. Overall total material circulation decreased from 10,068 to 9,816. Our present book collection increased from 20,687 to 20,978. Our total CD collection increased from 296 to 306. Our total DVD collection decreased from 534 to 421. Registered barcoded borrower cards increased from 4,007 to 4, 211. Total number of items in entire library collection increased from 21,517 to 21,705. Motion made by Melody Ingalls and seconded by Linda Mark to accept the Library Director's Report. So Voted

Vote to Remain a Free Public Library: Motion was made by Amy Clark and seconded by Diane Wimmer to remain a free public library for another year. So Voted

President's Report: President Wendy Harrington reported that it was a good year overall for the library with the continuance of its weekly and monthly programs and with the Summer

Reading Program continuing to have well over a hundred participants which now includes adults.

The quest for a new library facility sadly came to a halt just as the New Library Facility Committee was set to choose an architect. After being given the "go-ahead" by the previous town administration to pursue a new library on our own, new First Selectman Joe Bellavance announced he would not support the venture nor ask the townspeople to support it. His plan is to have a combined town hall/library campus outside of Brooklyn's Village Center District. This moves our hopes for a new library from a two-year time frame to five years or more.

At budget time for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the library returned $15,249 to the town for unspent funds from the 2024-2025 fiscal year. There will be no unspent funds to return to the town for the 2025-2026 fiscal year because of unexpected all repairs due to crumbling plaster costing $10,300. On top of that, our proposed 2026-2027 fiscal year budget request was cut to $146,911 which was $10,000 less than the grant of $156,911 received from the town for the two previous fiscal years. There is more than sufficient money in our savings to cover the shortfall and operate as originally planned.

The library continues to have a presence in the community by participating in events hosted by the Brooklyn School.

Our goal to increase association membership was aided this year by adding a membership application form to our website with a link to it from our digital catalog.

A goal for next year is to refresh our library flower garden. Present plantings have become overgrown and unruly. There are thoughts of having a gardening club for children and adult patrons. We are currently investigating having the new garden project become a pollinator garden in conjunction with the town's recent Bee City designation.

A hopefully upcoming event is the idea of having a patron's library card may get them a discount during this year's Christmas holiday, starting on Black Friday, at designated local businesses.

We are considering purchasing a Library Edition subscription to Ancestry.com with access from a library computer or through the use of the library's Wifi network.

Space restrictions and costly repairs to our ageing facility remain our biggest challenge. Motion was made by Jane Sipila and Seconded by Carolyn Otto to accept the President's Report. So Voted

Friends of the Library: Wendy Harrington announced that The Friends will be meeting soon with the Library Director, Association President, and Association Vice President to set fundraising goals for the coming year.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of Officers and Executive Board Members for 2026-2027: President Wendy Harrington,Vice President Deneen Azzolino, Secretary Wendy Harrington, Treasurer Patricia Ball . Executive Board Members: Ken Dykstra, Beverly Spink, Diane Wimmer, Jane Sipila, Carolyn Otto, Kerri Osborne, Desiree Burlingame, and Amy Clark. Alternates: Martha Ennis, Alexandra Smith, and Krystal Shaw. The following persons have agreed to become members of the Brooklyn Town Library Association: Caitlyn Ross 74 Juniper Way, Arlene Szela 59 Windham Road, Janifer Zacharski 303 Barrett Hill Road, Lilianna Azzolino 127 South Main Street, Marnie Lourenco 23 Christian Hill Road, Petra

Williams 61 Beecher Road, Jo-Ann Pierpont 20 Hugh Drive, Mariette Sheldon 15 Hamilton Avenue. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion was made by Melody Ingalls and seconded by Martha Ennis to close the nominations. The secretary cast one ballot for acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report. So voted

Old Business: None

New Business:

Membership Resignations: Cassandra Leach and Lorraine McLeish have asked to be removed from association membership. Motion made by Diane Wimmer and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept these resignations with regrets. So Voted

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Michelle Shannon and seconded by Linda Mark to adjourn the meeting. So voted Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington, Secretary