

BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
131st ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2024
AT THE
BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Harrington at 7:32 PM. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Joanne Lantry, Deneen Azzolino, Lisa Burbank, Charlene Hill, Renee Messier, Diane Wimmer, Jane Sipila, Samantha Stiles, Kerri Osborne, Desiree Burlingame, Ken Dykstra, Bev Spink, Carolyn Otto, Janet M. Mercer, Jessica Tracy, Michelle Shannon, Amy Clark, Linda L. Mark, Melody Ingalls, Tracy Clang, Martha Ennis, Amy Landis, Joan Duignan, Alexandra Smith, Kendra Collins, Arlene Baril, Lisa M. Lindia, Stephanie Walters, Ashley Ladero, and guest, Olivia Tracy. Excused absences: Laura Gatlin, Ann Hunter-Steuer, Nancy Chartier, Cassandra Leach, Lorraine McLeish, Hope Barton, and Gloria Lee.

Secretary's Minutes: The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read by Secretary Wendy Harrington. Motion was made by Joanne Lantry and seconded by Charlene Hill to accept the minutes as read. So Voted

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Renee Messier presented a Profit & Loss Statement for July 2023 through June 2024 showing Total income of \$ 173,372.30 , total expenses of \$155,519.01 plus interest of \$5,609.44 leaving a net income of \$23,462.73 . The Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2024 showed total assets of \$272,738.29, total liabilities of \$2,489.28 and a total equity of \$270,249.01. The Profit & Loss Statement for July 1 through November 4, 2024 showed total income of \$78,852.61, total expenses of \$ 47,480.22 and interest of \$236.39 for a net income of \$31,608.78.

Kerri Osborne questioned whether the executive board should approve CD renewals, in case the money could be withdrawn to be used for large purchases or unexpected expenses. . It was explained that previous treasurers were entrusted to handle CD renewals and that money had not been needed for additional expenses. Kerri suggested that a Finance Committee be formed to make the decision and the matter will be placed on the agenda of the next board meeting.

Motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Samantha Stiles to accept the treasurer's report as given. So Voted

Library Director's Report: Library Director Lisa Burbank reported that book circulation had increased from 5,881 to 7,769. Circulation of other materials increased from 2,053 to 2,262 making overall material circulation showing an increase from 7,934 to 10,031. Books previously loaned to Brooklyn Summer Recreation have now become property of the Recreation Department . Our present book collection slightly decreased from 23,747 to 23,603. Our current CD collection is 259. Our DVD collection decreased from 476 to 451. Registered barcoded borrower cards increased from 3,632 to 3,864. The total number of items in the entire library collection increased from 24,269 to 24,371. Overall patronage rose from 4,489 library visits to 6,410.

Children's Story Time averages 12-15 participants most weeks with a record of 21. An extra story time was added on Friday to accommodate children from Village Green. The Juvenile Book Club had 86 children for the 7 months they have met. There are 6 regulars with 3

more who attend when their schedules allow. The Young Writer's Club has 3 members. Adult Book Club has 14 members. Knitting and Crocheting Club has a core group of 3, not counting staff, with 4 who come when their schedules allow. Read Around the Library and 1,000 Books B-4 Kindergarten each have 8 participants. Just today one child completed the 1,000 Books B-4 Kindergarten program.

Vote to Remain A Free Public Library: Motion was made by Michelle Shannon and seconded by Carolyn Otto to remain a free public library for another year. So voted. Lisa Lindia commented that she felt it was time for the library to become a town commission. Discussion ensued whereby Wendy Harrington and Deneen Azzolino explained that they and the library director had been at a Selectmen's meeting this year, brought up that topic and the board wanted no part of it.

President's Report: President Wendy Harrington reported it had been a quieter year with no changes in staff and no renovation projects going on. The summer reading program reached an all-time high of over 90 participants and The Friends of the Library sponsored an ice cream truck visit at the end.

The New Library Facilities Committee has been reactivated. Committee members are President Harrington, Deneen Azzolino, Jane Sipila, Ken Dykstra, Carolyn Otto, Jeffrey Otto, and Lisa Burbank. The committee no longer wants to wait for there to be a possible town hall/library complex. CT State Library Constructions Grants now offer up to \$2million for half the cost to be matched by the town.

The committee was approached by businessman Steve Townsend to consider him building us a library in his Rt. 6 development behind CVS. It was given careful consideration but we turned down the proposal because it would have meant leasing the building. Even if we leased to own, ground rent would be payable for eternity.

The committee meets monthly and has already rewritten our Long Range Plan that is part of the process for a grant application. A 2-page town-wide survey resulted in a vote of 141-2 in favor of a new library facility with 2 people refraining from answering the question about being in favor of a new library. Several residents expressed an interest in serving on an eventual Citizens' Planning Committee.

There is much more work to be done with the process including proving to town administrators that residents want a new library in town and meeting a series of grant timelines. With all of that, the earliest we could see a new library would be in the spring of 2028.

Motion was made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Charlene Hill to accept the report as given. So Voted

Friends of the Library: Kerri Osborne and Samantha Stiles took over leadership of the group in July. They held a sparsely attended first meeting and will have another in the spring. They will be focusing on the needs of the library to base fundraising on. They want to expand membership and from the recent town-wide library survey, several people expressed an interest in joining. They will be working on having a relationship with the school and its new superintendent. Their new email address is friendsbtlib@gmail.com Last year's tea and basket raffle made \$300-\$400. They will not plan a holiday event this year, but will try for something in the spring. They are having a book and bake sale this Saturday, November 9th to be held at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Report of the Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers and Executive Board members for 2024-2025: Officers: President Wendy Harrington, Vice President Deneen Azzolino, Secretary Wendy Harrington and Treasurer Renee Messier. Executive Board members: Ken Dykstra, Beverly Spink, Diane Wimmer, Jane Sipila, Carolyn Otto, Samantha Stiles, Kerri Osborne, and Charlene Hill. Alternates: Desiree Burlingame, Amy Clark, and Martha Ennis. The following persons have agreed to become members of the Brooklyn Town Library Association: Stephanie Walters of 401E Wauregan Road, Kendra Collins of 85 Brown Road, Janet M. Mercer of 45 Day Street, and Alexandra Smith of 114 Fitzgerald Road. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion was made by Samantha Stiles and seconded by Martha Ennis to close the nominations. The secretary cast one ballot for the acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report.

Old Business : None

New Business: Letter of resignation from member Patricia Austin was read. Motion was made by Diane Wimmer and seconded by Joanne Lantry to accept said resignation with regrets. So voted

Other New Business: Diane Wimmer suggested that we let the town's Long Range Capital Committee know of our plans for wanting a new library. Lisa Lindia stated that the Saveway Property on South Main Street is for sale and she feels that is a good place for a town hall/library complex.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Samantha Stiles and seconded by Desiree Burlingame to adjourn the meeting. So Voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington, Secretary