

**BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 2, 2026**

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

Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Jane Sipila to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2025 meeting as emailed. So Voted

Treasurer's Report: Patricia Ball presented a Profit & Loss Statement for July 1, 2025-February 28, 2026 showing total income of \$118,648.96 , total expenses of \$110,786.12, for a net income of \$7,862.84 plus interest income of \$4,413.63 making a total net income of \$12,276.47. She also presented a statement of all bank account balances. After discussion, motion was made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Carolyn Otto to accept the report. So Voted

Library Director's Report: Lisa Burbank reported that as part of the 250th Anniversary of America the library worked with the Town Hall, Brooklyn Parks & Rec, and Little Dipper Farm to present the Brooklyn Tea Party on the 253rd anniversary of the Boston Tea Party which was held at the Brooklyn Elementary School. The library interpreted life in New England in 1773 followed by a story time telling about the Boston Tea Party. Other events are planned for each month leading up to the big event on July 4th at Brooklyn Fairgrounds.

Take Your Child to the Library was celebrated with a month-long scavenger hunt, Valentine's Craft, and cookies for all who visited. There were 47 participants.

A representative from the CT State Library will visit on April 13th at 10:30 AM during Storytime. They last visited during Catherine Tucker's tenure as director.

Summer Reading theme will be Plant a Seed, Read focusing on gardening and nature. One program will be a visit from DEEP in partnership with Dinosaur State Park on July 17th when geckos, snakes, turtles and possibly some hissing cockroaches will be visiting the library. With the help of the Friends of the Library, another possible event will be a puppet show from Lionheart Puppets to be held at the Community Center. We are hoping to have the end of summer reading ice cream social at Prince Hill Park along with games and a special story time at the playground there. Volunteers are needed for this event.

The owner of Heirloom Foods in Danielson (a Brooklyn resident and library patron) would like to offer a sweet treat or discount to Brooklyn Library card holders.

Motion was made by Amy Clark and seconded by Jane Sipila to accept the report. So Voted

Friends of the Library: Kerri Osborne reported. The Friends had a table at the Brooklyn PTO Holiday Festival where they gave out books and signed up new members. They donated 20 winter-themed books to children at Storytime and have given a total of 80 books so far. They

will sponsor the Lionheart Puppets show as part of summer reading program and the ice cream social truck. They are asking what other museum passes the library would like to offer.

OLD BUSINESS

Library Wall Repair: The work in the children's rooms began January 12th and was completed February 9th. The repairs needed were more extensive than originally expected. Total cost of repairs done by Jamie Long of Apex Remodeling and Management Services, LLC was \$10,300. In the process the antique clock had to be taken down and put back up, with minor repairs made to its case and movement all done by the person who recently restored it for us. That additional cost was \$200.

New Library Facility Committee Update: Four architects responded to our RFP letters requesting costs for plans and estimated construction costs for an 11,300 square foot library. Follow-up letters with questions to clarify some information were sent out February 3rd. A handout was given showing costs for plans between \$45,000 and \$160,000 and estimated construction costs between \$8,453,000 and \$15,537,000. At a town forum on January 29th, our new First Selectman Joe Bellavance showed unofficial drawings for a new town hall/town campus complex making use of the former Saveway Property on South Main Street that adjoins other town-owned property. Our association must answer the following questions going forward: Are we willing to move the library to that East Brooklyn location?; Are we willing to pay for a library design (with future town hall capability) in Brooklyn Center?; Are we willing to design a library, seek grants to construct, and go to the town for the remainder if necessary?; are we willing to push the town to move on a library before a consolidated building can be designed?. Lengthy discussion followed. Kerri Osborne, whose profession is procuring grants and doing fundraising, spoke on the association needing to know all costs up front before committing to anything and having a strong revenue plan in place as well as us (not the town) directly contacting legislators to help promote our plans in acquiring grants.

The vote was 7 to 5 with regard to the BTLA being willing to move the library to the East Brooklyn location. Some felt the library needed to be in the area where it would serve those who needed access to library services the most and ball fields there would attract families to use the library.

The vote was 12-0 with regard to the BTLA being willing to pay for a library design (with future town hall capability) in Brooklyn Center.

The vote was 11-1 with regard to the BTLA being willing to design a library, seek grants to construct, and go to the town for the remainder if necessary.

The BTLA unanimously voted it would not be willing to push the town to move on a library before a consolidated building can be designed for the reason that we need to consult with our new town administration first.

NEW BUSINESS

2026-2027 Budget: Our proposed budget was submitted to the town; a copy was given to board members. We are asking for \$169,095 after decreasing expenses by \$18,050 and increasing expenses for wages, programming, office and library supplies and online services by a total of \$10,058 which would have been a decrease of \$7512. However, because our previous year's request was decreased to \$156,911, our proposed budget shows an increase of \$12,184

from the previous fiscal year. Our profit and loss statement for fiscal year 2024-2025 shows that we only spent \$141,662 of the \$156,911 town grant; therefore, we must return \$15,249 to the town. Motion was made by Ken Dykstra and seconded by Desiree Burlingame to return \$15,249 to the Town of Brooklyn. So Voted

Set Next Meeting Date: Next meeting to be held on May 18,2026.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Desiree Burlingame to adjourn the meeting. So Voted Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington, Secretary