

BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
130TH ANNUAL MEETING
AT THE BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Harrington at 7:32 PM. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Beverly Spink, Deneen Azzolino, Renee Messier, Kerri Osborne, Lisa Burbank, Jane Sipila, Desiree Burlingame, Michelle Shannon, (Candy) Marie Dusseault, Elizabeth Swagger, Amy Clark, Martha Ennis, Ruth Turner Jones, Patricia Austin, Arlene Baril, and Ashley Ladero. Excused absences: Joanne Lantry, Diane Wimmer, Lorraine McLeish, Melody Ingalls, Carolyn Otto, Ailla Wasstrom-Evans, Heidi Sheldon, Amy Landis, Hope Barton, Samantha Stiles, and Ken Dykstra.

Secretary's Minutes: The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read by Secretary Wendy Harrington. Motion was made by Beverly Spink and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept the minutes as read. So Voted

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Renee Messier presented a Profit & Loss Statement for July 2022 through June 2023 showing total income of \$157,808.88, total expenses of \$126,905.69 plus interest of \$1,693.33 leaving a net income of \$32,596.32. The Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2023 showed total assets of \$249,177.49, total liabilities of \$2,391.21 and total equity of \$246,786.28. The Profit & Loss Statement for July 1 through November 6, 2023 showed Total income of \$87,818.95, total expenses of \$53,184.50 and interest of \$50.40 for a net income of \$34,684.85.

With no questions asked, motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Jane Sipila to accept the treasurer's reports as given. So Voted

Library Director's Report: Library Director Lisa Burbank reported that total book circulation had decreased from 8,921 to 5,881 while total other materials circulation (including Audiobooks, books for Brooklyn Summer Recreation and interlibrary loans) increased from 706 to 2,053. The weeding of patron files show that registered barcoded borrower cards decreased from 5,670 to 3,632.

We are using our 130th anniversary to raise funds to upgrade our digital library offerings. Our slogan is "Honoring our Past, Preparing for the Future." A holiday tea is planned for December 9th at Trinity Episcopal Church. Though a \$5,000 grant from Jewett City Savings Bank was denied, a second grant was submitted to Centreville Bank for \$5,000. We are looking to add Hoopla app to our e-book and audio book offerings, for which the starting fee is \$5,000.

New programs added this year are Children's Story Time, a Book Club, Knitting & Crocheting Group, and a Writer's Workshop. We implemented the Adopt-A-Book program whereby patrons may choose books from photos of book covers posted on a bulletin board. They pay for the book to be purchased, are the first to be able to borrow the book, and a name plate announcing the book's donor is affixed inside.

Motion was made by Amy Clark and seconded by Michelle Shannon to accept the Library Director's report. So voted

Vote to Remain A Free Public Library: Motion was made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Beverly Spink to remain a free public library for another year. So voted

President's Report: President Wendy Harrington spoke of the 130th anniversary of the library association on July 29, 2023 and its celebration with an open house that day. Library staff had created displays to commemorate the occasion.

In September last year Lisa Burbank was hired as Interim Director after which she was promoted to Library Director on February 16, 2023. Lisa and librarian clerks Lisa Kallio and Martha Ennis are a great team of employees each bringing their expertise to day-to-day operations and the running of library programs.

The library held true to their promise of focusing on community outreach and children's programming. The director gave a "Weed Walk" at a Conservation Committee event on trails behind the school. Books were once again provided to the Parks & Recreation Summer Camp reading room and the library had a table at Brooklyn School's Kinder Camp in August. We hope to provide books and possibly literacy programs to be part of Brooklyn Schools Brooklyn Cares Community Center that opened in September.

We were awarded \$10,000 from the town's ARPA Grant Program which covered the cost of a new handicapped-accessible sidewalk and part of the cost for new lighting and electrical work that was recently completed.

In 2024 we hope to offer more programs for patrons, new leadership of the Friends of the Library will bring new fundraising, our 130th anniversary celebration will continue, and we will further explore the possibility of a new library facility.

Motion was made by Jane Sipila and seconded by Elizabeth Swagger to accept the President's Report.

Friends of the Library: Kerri Osborne and Samantha Stiles will soon be taking over leadership of The Friends. Kerri spoke of the upcoming Holiday Tea Fundraiser to be held December 9th at Trinity Episcopal Church Hall as a continuance of our 130th Anniversary celebration. She gave details about the event and distributed a sheet for volunteer signups.

Report of the Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers and Executive Board members for 2023-2024: 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 Kerri Osborne. The following persons have agreed to become members of the Brooklyn Town Library Association: Ashley Ladero of 701 Allen Hill Road, Martha Ennis of 289 Providence Road, Tracy Clang of 26 Tatnic Hill Road, Patricia Austin of 36 Vina Lane, Ruth Jones of 36 Vina Lane, Ailla Wasstron-Evans of 17 Elliott Road and Heidi Sheldon of 25 Church Street. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion was made by Martha Ennis and seconded by Beverly Spink to close the nominations and accept the Nominating Committee Report. The secretary cast one ballot for the acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report.

No Old or New Business

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Kerri Osborne to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wendy E. Harrington, Secretary

