

**BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 14, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by President Wendy Harrington. Present were: Wendy Harrington, Renee Messier, Beverly Spink, Deneen Azzolino, Joe Asermelly, Carolyn Otto and Elizabeth Swagger. Late arrivals: Lisa Lindia, Diane Wimmer, and Ken Dykstra. Excused absences: Jane Sipila, Charlene Hill, Amy Landis, Joanne Lantry and Cassandra Leach.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion was made by Deneen Azzolino and seconded by Carolyn Otto to accept the minutes as emailed to board members. SO VOTED

Treasurer's Report: Renee Messier presented a Profit and Loss Statement for July 1, 2022 through March 14, 2022. Renee commented that another CD had just been renewed at a rate of .45 for 15 months. After board member review, motion was made by Carolyn Otto and seconded by Deneen Azzolino to accept the Treasurer's Report. SO VOTED

Library Director's Report: Elizabeth Swagger reported that a patron with a handicapped child sent a letter to be put on record that her child uses a wide walker and needed handicap accessibility into the library. The child would also be unable to access the upstairs.

Our library signs displaying our new hours have been redone by Elizabeth without us needing a professional sign company. The parking lot sign has been put on the building and the one for the sign post will go up now that she has the proper hardware to do so.

The new book drop has been ordered and will take 50 days to arrive. Elizabeth thanked the board for approving the purchase.

With regard to the chrome books donated by the Friends of the Library 8 years ago, one of the remaining two was checked out by Amanda Harrington and updated to EOF (End of Life) status. They are incapable of receiving further updates and can only be used to search the internet. Elizabeth will have them available for patron use to be able to search our online catalog.

Elizabeth checked our circulation statistics and in March of 2021 our circulation of materials was 88 items. For March of 2022 so far, 392 items.

Quiet Corner Reads has chosen Nathaniel Philbrick as this year's guest author. We have sold out of our tickets for the event.

The summer reading program this year is Beyond the Beaten Path. Elizabeth will make visits to the reading room at Summer Recreation.

April 1st starts passport to CT Libraries which we will participate in.

We will be starting a Seed Library and make use of our old card catalog to house them in. We will get 300 seed packets free through UCONN and Carolyn Otto said she has many seed packets to donate to it as well.

The ARPA grant report will be sent to the state tomorrow. It involved sending copies of receipts and cancelled checks for items purchased with that money.

Fines for late returned books and DVDs are being dropped by many libraries. It was suggested that instead there should be a donation jar whereby patrons give an amount of their

choosing (no matter how small), return the past-due materials, and their fine is forgiven. Motion was made by Lisa Lindia and seconded by Beverly Spink that we adopt that policy. SO VOTED

Elizabeth met with Brooklyn Historical Society President, Elizabeth Knowlton, and several of our old town historical books have been donated to the society. A thank you letter containing the list of books donated has been received.

Motion was made by Renee Messier and seconded by Joe Asermelly to accept the Library Director's Report as given. SO VOTED

Friends of the Library: President Diane Wimmer reported that she will schedule a meeting to ask members if they would be willing to reimburse the library for the cost of the recently ordered new book drop.

OLD BUSINESS:

Return of Money to the Town: A check for excess funds in the amount of \$14,920, representing town budget funds not used due to PPP loans received during COVID pandemic, was given to First Selectman, Austin Tanner, on December 27, 2021. He turned it over to the financial office whose clerk questioned why we had done so, since we do not have a contract with the town to return unused funds.

New Book Drop: It has already been ordered as reported under Library Director's Report.

Reactivating New Library Facility Committee: The committee was originally formed in 2019 and met once on October 22, 2019. A Library Space and Planning Worksheet was prepared at the request of former First Selectman, Rick Ives, and given to him in January of 2020. Original members of the committee were Catherine Tucker, Wendy Harrington, Michelle Shannon, Ken Dykstra and Deneen Azzolino. Elizabeth Swagger will replace retired Catherine Tucker, Michelle Shannon resigned from the board and turned in her committee materials, and Joe Asermelly and Jane Sipila were added to this group. Discussion ensued as to why reactivate the group when chances for a new town hall/library complex are not in the near future. According to First Selectman Tanner, who met with our Budget Committee, a future town hall/library complex was many years away because of a large six million dollar debt repayment the town had to make. Also what about possible donations from the Begary Trust and further monies from the woman who had given a donation honoring her late uncle's wishes that the library be remembered.

Other: Discussion on topic of handicap improvements at our entrance and checking on costs for the minimal pavement adjustment to existing pavement. Diane Wimmer asked Joe Asermelly if this was something Ellis Tech students could do and Joe explained the process. We will check into costs to get an idea of what the expense could be to make minor upgrades.

NEW BUSINESS:

Disposal of Excess Library Chairs: There are several, very old wooden chairs in the library. Elizabeth has taken several home to re-glue rungs that have come detached. None bear nameplates as having been given in honor of or in memory of someone. It was decided to offer them for sale in "as-is" condition and use the proceeds for the library. It was suggested that perhaps a couple could be left upstairs near library shelves in case someone wanted to sit down and read.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion was made by Lisa Lindia and seconded by Renee Messier to adjourn the meeting. SO VOTED Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy E. Harrington,, Secretary