



**Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library**  
10 Community Way  
East Greenbush, NY 12061  
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## **February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Julie Ann Price – President  
Diana Vance - Secretary  
Liz Reyner – Treasurer  
Diana Valenchis - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair  
Betty Bellino - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair  
Jenn Romer - Fundraising Co-Chair  
Clinton Rickards - Fundraising Co-Chair  
Sarah Holston - Membership Co-Chair  
MaryAnn Baird - Membership Co-Chair  
Jill Dugas Hughes - Library Director  
Susan Bell - Library Liaison

Mary Kolb  
Linda Murphy  
Kelly Walion  
Lynne Shultis  
David Gonsalves

### **EXCUSED ABSENCE:**

Shay Harrison - Vice President

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the November 18, 2025, meeting were reviewed.

- One revision to the attendance list will be made.

**MOTION:** Ms. Reyner made a motion to accept the minutes.  
2nd motion was made by Ms Murphy. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Ms. Reyner reported as follows:
  - 3 reports were provided.
  - November 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
    - Some Night at the Library expenses (ex. dry cleaning table clothes) and income are listed.
    - The large expense of the Keela membership is shown

**MOTION:** Ms. Romer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period November 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 with an ending balance of

\$80,385.18. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Murphy. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- January 1, 2026 - January 31, 2026 report
  - Membership is ramping up

**MOTION:** Ms. Shultis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period January 1, 2026 through January 31, 2026 with an ending balance of \$89,134.59. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Holston. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- 2025 Expense and Income Report showing a starting balance of \$54,813.61 and ending balance of \$80,385.18.
- Ms. Reyner will investigate CD opportunities further.

#### **LIBRARY REPORT:**

- Ms. Dugas Hughes thanked the Friends for the work you do on behalf of the Library. The advocacy letters were wonderful to read.
- She prepared ten grant requests which will comprise the majority of the grant requests for this year.
- She provided a renovations update - Roof project going out to bid next month; however, there was a significant roof leak prior to this. New carpet will be installed. Work will start in the next 3-4 weeks which may cause closures. A plan will be rolled out to the community once details are determined.

As described in detail in the attached Grant Request Report, the following requests were made:

1. Museum Pass Program - \$2,900 (37 passes to 27 institutions)
2. Large Print Collection - \$2,700 (to add approximately 60-75 new titles)
3. Library-Wide, Intergenerational Program Supplies - \$1,260
  - a. This includes collaboration between departments in regard to programming (ie youth and adult together)
  - b. Last year there were 37 programs with 4,652 attendees
4. Adult Programming - \$7,500. Last year the Library held 364 programs with 6,260 attendees
5. Teen Programming - \$6,200. Last year the Library held 76 programs with over 1,118 attendees
6. Youth Programming - \$9,500. Last year the Library held 324 programs with 21,231 attendees
7. Hot Off the Press Collection - \$1,390. Collection of best sellers, immediate access to residents and Friends of the Library.

8. Outreach Supplies - \$3,500. This includes merchandise and give aways, books, promotional outreach, targeted to the local community/residents.
9. Wi-Fi Hotspots - \$1,600. The Library currently has 10 hotspots which are in high demand. Wish to add 6 more.
10. Library of Things Collection - \$2,500. This fund would add approximately 20-30 items.

Total of \$39,050. Additionally, \$8,788.37 remains from previous year's grants.

**MOTION:** Mr. David Gonsalves made a motion to approve the 10 grant requests as further outlined in the 2026 Grants Progress Report. 2nd motion made by Mr. Rickards. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

## **PRESIDENT'S & VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

### **Volunteer Appreciation Day**

- Ms. Price thanked all the volunteers who supported the Friends in 2025.
- Ms. Price discussed the Volunteer Appreciation Event to be held on Saturday, March 21, at 10:30 AM.
  - **MOTION:** Ms. Romer made a motion to approve \$500 for food and beverage for the Volunteer Appreciation Event.. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Reyner. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.
- Ms. Price discussed the annual staff appreciation gift typically handed out on the Staff Professional Development Day. This year's date is Monday, April 27th. We typically spend around \$6 per person. There are 37 employees.
  - **MOTION:** Ms. Reyner made a motion to approve up to \$300 for a staff appreciation gift. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Schultis. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.
- Ms. Price discussed the need for more member recruiting and Friends awareness events. We have been approached with two opportunities we would like to explore - a Mahjong Tournament and a Trivia Night. Both of these events would be paid events with a lower rate for members. The goal of tiered pricing is to draw a distinction to the group "Friends"
  - Concern raised about a paid Library event vs. free Library events.
  - Additional tabling could be effective.
  - Expectation that there is a fee to enter a tournament
- Friend's role is advocacy and fundraising, Library's role is programming.
- Suggestion to combine tabling with coffee/tea/etc to socialize and learn more about the role of the Friends.
- Emphasis in programming when it is funded by the Friends.

## **ADVOCACY & AWARENESS REPORT:**

- Ms. Bellino reported that there were 196 letters and 28 hearts prepared for Advocacy Day. Unfortunately there were no representatives at Advocacy Day, but the letters were hand delivered to Senator Jake Ashby.
- Suggestion to collaborate with Participation in Government teacher at Columbia High School to encourage participation in Advocacy Day next year.
  - Teen programming opportunity for posters, etc
- Ms. Valenchis reported that letters could be shortened; tabling could be done on Saturdays when volume was higher. The Library and Friends could attempt to tie into programming days; however, it did not make a huge impact this year.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- Ms. Baird reported as follows: 2026 campaign \$7,136 received and 198 members. There is a high volume of \$10 members. Last year at this time, the membership values were overall higher.
  - 10 benefactors - \$250 plus
  - 123 at the \$10 level, the rest are in between.
- May have a membership push in June.

## **FUNDRAISING/BOOK SALES:**

### **Spring Book Sale**

- Ms. Romer reported that the format of the Spring book sale will be changed. The sale will be only Saturday and Sunday (Friday night Friends only pre-sale), adult books and DVDs only.
- Flyers are available.
- The lighted construction sign in front of the bowling alley has been reserved
  
- The Friends will purchase lawn signs for the Spring sale - these are reusable and interchangeable so can be used for various events.

**MOTION:** Ms. Schultis made a motion to approve up to \$120 for lawn signs for the Spring Book Sale. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Reyner. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

### **Night at the Library Fundraiser**

- Ms. Romer reported that the first meeting for next year's event is next Wednesday (2/25/26) at 6:00 and will be strictly focused on sponsorship.

### **Basket Raffles**

- January - sales: 152 tickets for Harry Potter; 171 tickets for the Lord of the Rings. There were no expenses for either basket.
- March baskets - Minecraft and Frieda McFadden type offers.

- April - Marvel and DC baskets for EG con.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- February 25 - Night at the Library Sponsorship Meeting - 6 PM
- March 21 - Volunteer Appreciation Brunch 10:30-11:30
- April 12 - Book Donations Pause
- April 18-19 - Spring Book Sale
- April 21 - Post Sale Sorter Meeting
- April 21 - Friends Board Meeting
- April 22 - Book Donations Resume
- “Best of” contest

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Price made a motion to adjourn at 7:21 PM. 2nd motion was made by Ms.Reyner. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Vance

**Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library  
2025 Income/Expenses Summary**

**Starting Balance (1/1/25) \$54,813.61**

**Expenses**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Library Grants                         | \$34,540.00        |
| 2024 tax prep (Stark & D'Aprile)       | \$675.00           |
| NYLA Annual Membership                 | \$150.00           |
| Keela Annual Database Subscription     | \$1,223.64         |
| New 6 month Pioneer CD                 | \$10,000.00        |
| Nielsen Associates mailings (2)        | \$766.72           |
| Ebay Fees                              | \$92.36            |
| Raffle Basket Supplies                 | \$593.60           |
| "Swag" Items (t-shirts, mugs, sticker) | \$487.49           |
| Night at the Library Expenses          | \$4,591.14         |
| Book Sale Expenses                     | \$1,650.00         |
| Sort Room/Misc Supplies & Expenses     | \$590.64           |
| <u>Subtotal Expenses</u>               | <u>\$55,360.59</u> |

**Income**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Memberships & Donations                            | \$15,573.37        |
| Credit Card Sales at Circ . Desk (12/6/24-8/6/25)  | \$2,017.09         |
| Tote Bags  | \$330.00           |
| Raffle Basket Tickets/Swag Sales/Add'l Fundraisers | \$4,042.50         |
| Ongoing Book Sales                                 | \$7,278.15         |
| Book Dealer Sales                                  | \$214.50           |
| Ebay Sales   | \$6,994.01         |
| CD (Pioneer) plus interest                         | \$10,574.16        |
| Hannaford Community Bag fundraiser                 | \$54.00            |
| Hoffman Car Wash fundraiser                        | \$42.00            |
| Spring & Fall Book Sale Income                     | \$17,588.35        |
| Night at the Library Income                        | \$16,224.03        |
| <u>Subtotal Income</u>                             | <u>\$80,932.16</u> |

**Ending Balance (12/31/25) \$80,385.18**



