



Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
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East Greenbush, NY 12061
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September 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

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|--|------------------|
| Julie Ann Price – President | Linda Murphy |
| Shay Harrison - Vice President | Alexis Mokler |
| Liz Reyner – Treasurer | Lynne Shultis |
| Betty Bellino Giugno - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair | Linda Kospa |
| Diana Valenchis - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair | Barbara Mootrey |
| Jenn Romer - Fundraising Co-Chair | Dinah Farrington |
| MaryAnn Baird - Membership Co-Chair | David Gonsalves |
| Susan Bell - Library Liaison | Clinton Rickards |

Mary Kolb

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Diana Vance – Secretary
Sarah Holston - Membership Co-Chair

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 PM.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June 17, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION: Ms. Romer made a motion to accept the minutes. 2nd motion was made by Mr. Gonsalves. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

- Ms. Reyner reported on expenses and income for the period from June 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025. Expenses during the period included a new Friends tablecloth and a logo embosser/seal for the new Friends logo. The last income from “swag” sales (t-shirts, etc.) has come in. Ongoing and eBay book sales remain strong month-to-month, and the monthly raffle baskets continue to do well. The Hoffman’s Car Wash fundraiser brought in \$42. Our Certificate of Deposit at Pioneer bank closed on 8/6, earning a total of \$574.16 in interest. Ms. Reyner did report that the income entry entitled “Swag” Sales on her report would be corrected to separate out income from “swag” from the money raised from “book” flowers.

MOTION – New Business: Ms. Reyner asked for a motion for authority to research and open one or more Certificates of Deposit for up to total of \$20,000,

for a period of no more than one year. The motion was made by Ms. Shultis and seconded by Ms. Baird. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

MOTION: Ms. Baird made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as revised, for the period June 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 with an ending balance of \$70,995.85. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Romer. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

LIBRARY REPORT:

- Ms. Bell reported on behalf of Ms. Dugas-Hughes.
 - Grants: No grants will be requested at this meeting but there will be some requested at the November meeting.
 - Budget/Trustee Vote: Ms. Bell also reported on the budget process currently under way and the upcoming trustee election. Anyone interested in applying to run for an open position on the Board can pick up a candidate packet at the front desk; the deadline to turn in the packet with 25 or more signatures is October 20th at 5pm.
 - The next Board of Trustees meeting on September 30th will include a budget discussion
 - October 16 – budget hearing, followed by meeting
 - Nov 17th budget/trustee vote – The Board voted last year to move date from September to November because of the issues with Schodack funding, and it better aligned with Library budget year. Ms. Bellino Giugno asked whether the charter prohibits such a date change, Ms. Bell will check/confirm.
 - Construction Update:
 - The contractor is finishing windows that needed to be adjusted.
 - The new Assistant Director's office is almost finished as is the work on the Sort Room.
 - Finishing current construction grant with the last of the current grant; a new construction grant application is being prepared for roof replacement in 2026.
 - New Youth Services Librarian started early September.
 - Adult & Information (A&I) Services position will end in September; the current head of A&I will then become the Assistant Director.
 - Library Clerk position just posted, job description/info on website.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES REPORT:

- Not in attendance

PRESIDENT'S & VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

2026 Elections

- Ms. Price announced the kick off of the 2026 Friends Election cycle.
- The positions up for re-election in 2025 are President, Treasurer and one co-chair position each for Membership, Advocacy & Awareness, and Fundraising.
- We have candidates for every position except Fundraising Co-Chair.

MOTION: Ms. Murphy made a motion to appoint Mary Kolb, Linda Kospa, Barbara Mootrey and Lynne Shultis to the Nominating Committee. 2nd motion was made by Mr. Harrison. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Ms. Price mentioned that the Friends participated in the EG Community Day on Saturday, September 13th. Saw over 200 people at the Library table. Lots of interest in Night at the Library.
- A volunteer is needed to represent the Friends at the Kiwanis Touch a Truck event on Saturday, October 4th (10-2) at Beckers Farm.

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS REPORT:

- Ms. Bellino Giugno and Ms. Valenchis collaborated to talk about the following initiatives/ideas:
 - “Make a Note to Remember to Vote” – would be a takeaway item – business card size, created/printed in-house – at a table one day the week before the vote, but also hand out before some of the events leading up to the vote.
 - Article in Our Town
 - Reminder emails
 - Display case
 - Have a mock vote for kids, then while they do that, give parents information about the upcoming vote.
 - Ms. Price suggested we ask for the lighted construction sign for the Budget Vote/Election day in November, will ask after Night at the Library is over. She also suggested we add information about the vote to our display case along with the membership drive at the Night at the Library event.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Ms. Baird reported that through 8/31/25 we had raised \$15,000 (2024 \$12,000) from 255 members (225 in 2024). The average donation is \$59 (\$54 in 2024).
- Sarah, Maryann and Ken talked about membership and recruiting ideas:
 - tabling, displays, events, including at book sale, but also talk to Library to be at events.
 - printing a QR code to take info.
- End of year “Friendsgiving” appeal – early November email followed by paper, goes out no later than 11/28.
- Membership renewal email end of January, paper in mid-February.
- Discussion of Member Benefit of Private Member’s Only Sale – do we want to keep in 2026? The amount of participants is approx. 20, not growing in popularity. The consensus among those present was yes, let’s keep it going for now, it’s more appreciated than not.

FUNDRAISING/BOOK SALES:

Ongoing Book Sale

- Sales are down by about \$1,000 despite expanded offering.
- Discussion followed regarding a puzzle-only sale in January or having quarterly puzzle and hot book sales as a one-day pop up.
 - Which would mean keeping the “prime” puzzles out of the Fall Book Sale to keep those and be able to charge more.
 - Could be confusing to people if there are puzzles at the book sale and then a separate puzzle sale a few months later
 - We currently have 65 banker boxes full of puzzles – need to re-sort to winnow out.

Raffle Basket Summary

- August basket sales were great - Harry Potter and Louis Penny
- Overall basket sales are down from this time last year by about 100 tickets
- No baskets in October due to Night at the Library event

Fall Book Sale

- Book sale dates are October 10-12 with the member’s only pre-sale on Thursday, October 9th.
- We are working on securing a lighted construction sign again as that made a huge difference for the Spring sale – looking for a location on Route 4, already have a commitment.
- Have a few volunteer slots still to be filled.

Night at the Library Fundraiser

- We have commitments for \$5,700 in sponsorships so far.
- We have over 50 auction items and 25 raffle baskets available – 8-10 baskets, the rest are gift card/certificates. Display of all will start Oct 1.
- Items will be available for bidding/ticket purchase starting October 1 – can bid on auction items online, and buy raffle tickets online or in person at Library.
- We have 28 tickets sold as of today.
- **We need a lot more volunteers to make this event a success!**

UPCOMING DATES:

- Fall Book Sale - October 10-12
- Night at the Library - October 18th
- Budget Vote & Trustee Election - November 17th
- Friends Meeting & Election - November 18th

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Kospa made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 PM. 2nd motion was made by Mr. Gonsalves. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Reyner