



Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
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East Greenbush, NY 12061
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November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Julie Ann Price – President	Clinton Rickards
Shay Harrison - Vice President	Mary Kolb
Diana Vance - Secretary	Linda Murphy
Liz Reyner – Treasurer	Kelly Walion
Diana Valenchis - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair	Lynne Shultis
Jenn Romer - Fundraising Co-Chair	Phyllis Secor
Sarah Holston - Membership Co-Chair	Dale Collins
MaryAnn Baird - Membership Co-Chair	Dinah Farrington
Jill Dugas Hughes - Library Director	Frank Coppa
Alexis Mokler - Outreach Librarian	
Susan Bell - Library Liaison	

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Betty Bellino - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

MINUTES: Minutes from the September 16, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Ms. Reyner reported as follows:
 - Almost \$1,900 additional income will be received in the next few days, however, as it is not reportable during this period as not yet received it is not reflected on the presented report.
 - During the last meeting, an investment of up to \$20,000 in a higher interest CD was approved.
 - \$10,000 was deposited into a 6 month CD at Pioneer Bank with an interest rate of 3.85%. The CD matures in April, 2026.
 - Ms. Reyner is still investigating the best account for the other \$10,000
 - Income reflected for the Night at the Library is net, after expenses.
 - Some income items were also included in the last report.

- The reported income includes the last sponsorship that came in after the last report, raffle tickets, and bidding for the silent auction
- A few of the checks mailed to artists as commissions have not yet been cashed.

MOTION: Ms. Secor made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period September 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025 with an ending balance of \$76,041.20. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Holston. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

LIBRARY REPORT:

- Ms. Dugas Hughes
 - Special thanks to Julie Ann and Jenn for the work for the Night at the Library. Incredibly well done and tremendous amount of work.
 - The election was held on November 17th. This was the largest turn out ever. The budget passed by 60% with 563 total voters (last year, for reference, total voters was 257). 340 yes 223 no votes
 - 5 candidates for 3 open positions on the Board of Trsutees. The results were incredibly close.
 - Most likely Sarah Boggess and Crystal Derico will win the two 5 year term positions with the highest votes
 - 3rd highest candidate will serve a 2 year term. There are still absentee ballots that must be counted. In this case, the results are tremendously close so the absentee ballots may affect the results.
 - Douglas Morrissey is the highest currently - 248 votes, with Mr. White currently with 243 votes.
 - One additional Trustee will be retiring at the end of the year, so the 4th highest candidate will likely receive the remainder of that 1 year term.
 - Land use issue
 - The Library Board has not taken an official vote to date.
 - The Town issued a notice that it has withdrawn its interest in further discussions with the Library
 - Library values its partnership with the Town

Grant Request

- For Staff Professional Development and Appreciation in the sum of \$2,700. This is an identical grant to last year, for a lower amount.

MOTION: Ms. Reyner made a motion to approve the Staff Professional Development Days and Appreciation grant in the amount of \$2,700. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Shultis. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S & VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

2026 Elections

- Ms. Kolb thanked the committee members. The committee met to consider all eligible candidates
- Ms. Kolb presented the 2026 Endorsed Candidate Slate
 - President - Julie Ann Price
 - Treasurer - Elizabeth Reyner
 - Membership Co-Chair - Sarah Holston
 - Fundraising Co-Chair - Clinton Rickards
 - Advocacy & Awareness - Diana Valenchis

 - **MOTION:** Ms. Kolb - made a motion to accept the Slate as presented. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Harrington. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Ms. Price congratulated the new and returning Board members..

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS REPORT:

- Ms. Valenchis reported that there was a great turn out. Informational materials, as well as stickers for the kids, were a great hit.
- We discussed that there were comments from the community on social media forums that community members were not aware of the vote.
- Advocacy Plan Preliminary -
 - February 3rd is Advocacy Day
 - An advocacy day will be held at the Library the weekend before with letters for patrons regarding why they like their library. Materials for the kids will be present as well, perhaps to be left out longer
 - Duplicate copies of all letters will be prepared for advocacy day itself

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Ms. Baird reported as follows:
 - Friendsgiving End of Year Appeal
 - Emails already sent to the list serve.
 - Half a dozen donations already received.
 - Letters will also be mailed to individuals who have donated recently.
 - The end of year appeal is a fundraiser, not a membership drive. This is strictly a donation.
 - The letters will be printed for mailing during the last week in November.
 - Friendsgiving mailing expenses estimated at \$265 for 250 letters

- **MOTION:** Ms. Reyner made a motion to approve \$265 for the Friendsgiving mailing. Ms. Romer seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Membership:

- 650 letters will be mailed in January. The total cost for set up, pricing, postage, etc is estimated to be \$516.50
 - **MOTION:** Ms. Reyner made a motion to approve \$516.50 for the Membership renewal mailing. Ms. Secor seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

The window display will be updated in December. Ms. Holston will be working on tabling events in 2026.

December 2, 2025 a membership committee meeting will be held. All are welcome.

FUNDRAISING/BOOK SALES:

Fall Book Sale

- Ms. Romer reported as follows:
 - Book sale was held October 10-12 with the members only pre-sale on Thursday, October 9th.
 - Members only sale continues to be lightly attended - total sales that night \$600.
 - Total income raised was \$8,679.32 - \$2,000 less than the Spring sale, despite having more inventory and ending with more inventory
- The Friends will purchase lawn signs for Spring sale
- Jill thanked the book sale committee and sorting committee.

Night at the Library Fundraiser

- Ms. Price reported as follows:
 - The fundraiser was a very successful event. \$12,746.00 was raised.
 - We had 50 auction items and 32 raffle baskets. All but 10 pieces of art were sold.
 - Income was 50% from sponsorships, 25% from raffles, 25% from auction.
 - Actual evening event was a break even (ticket sales offset the cost of the event)
 - We need a lot more volunteers to make this event a success in the future, especially during the planning phase.
 - Changes to consider for next year include - a presentation/performance/show; less food (much was left untouched, however, we were under budget with the food purchased); reconsideration of alcohol; lower ticket price
 - Date for next year will be October 3rd.
 - Planning will start at the January Board meeting.

Ongoing Book Sale

- Sales are down by about \$1,000 despite expanded offering and new location
- eBay has made up the difference with 2 huge sales - \$500 and \$750.
 - The eBay team wrote a letter that was published in the Library newsletter explaining what they do
 - Not long after, a complete 7 volume set of Chronicles of Narnia was received, beautifully published. The set sold for \$750.
 - Additionally, Ernest Hemingway book inscribed to the collector from a friend. Restoration was needed. 1st edition, 1st printing which contained 3 errors. Sold for \$500
- Baskets - Star Wars and Sherlock Holmes
- Puzzle only Sale will be held on Saturday, January 10 - \$5/\$3/\$2 for nicer puzzles

UPCOMING DATES:

- December 2 - Membership Meeting
- January 10 - Puzzle Sale
- January 20 - Annual Planning Meeting
- February 3 - Library Advocacy Day
- March 21 - Volunteer Appreciation Brunch 10:30-11:30

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ms. Shultis made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 PM. 2nd motion was made by Ms. Romer. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Vance