



10 Community Way  
East Greenbush, NY 12061  
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### January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

#### ATTENDANCE:

Julie Ann Price – President	Frank Coppa
Ei Aung - Vice-President-Elect	Deb Tagliento
Liz Reyner – Treasurer	Linda Murphy
Diana Valenchis - Advocacy Co-Chair	Mary Kolb
MaryAnn Baird - Membership Co-Chair	David Gonsalves
	Betty Bellino
	Barabar Mootrey
	Diana Vance

#### Absences:

Alex Bellisario – Membership Co-Chair (excused)  
Eileen Riley - Secretary (excused)

#### CALL TO ORDER:

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

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting were reviewed.

**MOTION:** Ms. Baird made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. 2nd Mr. Gonsalves.  
All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Reyner presented preliminary financial stats for 2023. We are back on track with overall volume of fundraising using a wider range of sources than pre-pandemic.

Staff very much appreciated the thank you gift and this item should be continued to be budgeted for going forward.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Reviewed the current Membership Campaign and explained the Keela hiccup.  
Reviewed the current Advocacy Day plans and new online form completion.

#### PLANNING SESSION:

Goal: Ms. Price set the goal for 2024 of increasing awareness of who the Friends are and the role we play in supporting the library.

## Ideas Discussed:

- Signage - Ms. Price presented the idea of adding the Friends logo to signage for items like Hot Off the Press and the Museum Passes to include, "Made possible by a grant from the Friends."
- Coffee & Conversation Monthly Meet-Up - Ms. Bellino presented the concept of a monthly drop-in social gathering to address the feelings of loneliness and isolation that persist post-pandemic. Discussion of how this could work followed. Decided a survey of membership was a good next step in the development of this idea.
- Mahjong - An informal group of patrons has formed a bi-weekly mahjong game day. Ms. Price suggested the Friends take over the group making it a more formalized program. Suggested we provide loaner game cards as a minimal expense to the Friends. The library has already purchased 2 game sets and a patron has donated a 3rd. Decision to present this as a formal motion at the February meeting.
- Great Greenbush Quest - Ms. Price presented a second year of the GGQ with some modifications to the format. Some discussion about making two versions - one for children and one more advanced. Ms. Price will work with the library and present a more formal plan at a later meeting.
- Read-a-thon - Ms. Price presented the concept of a read-a-thon activity over Spring Break for elementary students in East Greenbush and Schodack. Ms. Price and Ms. Aung will work on the details of this and present at the February board meeting.
- Summer Walk Challenge - Ms. Price presented a concept of a summer long challenge to walk the one-mile loop around Hampton Manor with prizes for amount of laps completed by the end of the summer. Suggestions were made to pair this with audio book recommendations and weekly themes. Ms. Price will work on this concept further with the library staff.
- Holiday Gift Fair - Ms. Price presented the concept of an ongoing holiday gift fair featuring local crafters as a way to connect and support small businesses. This idea would present some logistical challenges and may or may not be pursued.
- Other Items for Sale - Ms. Price led a discussion on what other items the Friends could accept as donations to expand fundraising ideas. One concept that presented itself was figurines like FunkoPop characters. More investigation into this option will be needed.
- Survey - Ms. Price suggested we survey the Friends membership to solicit other ideas for awareness activities from our membership.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

### **MOTION:**

Ms. Price made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 PM. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ann Price