

**Berkshire Free Library  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
at the Berkshire Free Library  
August 12, 2025**

**Present:** Carol Leigh, Nancy Lohmann, Brenda Yaples, Janice Merrill, Lisa Michaud, Sue Ford, Carol Cox, Barbara Schwartz, Graeme Brilliant, Fran Miller and guests Maryann Settle, Becky Howland and Margaret Nichols of the Patch family, and Penny Magnus, Berkshire Museum curator.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by Vice President Carol Cox. There were no changes to the Agenda.

**REPORTS**

**Secretary:** Minutes of the July 8, 2025 meeting were read. Under Old Business: Grants: The name of the grant being sought was deleted, and under Blueberry & Book Festival, change to "Gary's Berries from Campville (not Candor) to attend." No other changes were requested.

**Treasurer:** Carol noted that "Fuel Tank" has been added to the Statements Expense, under the Maintenance & Repairs line. Further, a valuation of the building will be obtained and added to the Balance Sheet. Carol sent a Festival income and expense report and noted the income received from the Blueberry & Book Festival this year was disappointing. Brenda said the raffle baskets didn't do well this year. There were no further questions of the Treasurer.

**Director:** Fran reported there are two more weeks of Kids Farmers Market, and Summer/Lunch Program ends Friday. There have been lower numbers for Story Time as several of the children have gone to HeadStart. Maybe a change in the day or time held would improve attendance going forward. The grant for Conflict Resolution is almost ready to submit. Fran plans to attend the Richford Kids Club held 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays to start the program. The Construction grant portal will be accessed soon and Fran plus Lisa will be documenting that process, passwords, etc.

Barbara moved and Sue seconded a motion to accept the above reports as given, and it was passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Grants:** covered under the Director report.

**Online Book Sales/Book Sale:** No exact figures available to report.

**Building Updates:** Lisa reported that SHPO has received our request to review the building addition plans. There are several steps to be completed by the September 8 FLLS construction deadline. Penny suggested we go for "low hanging fruit" and Barbara suggested making the library a "cooling location" but any system would likely have to be replaced with the addition. Carol Leigh suggested the Binghamton/Broome Builders Association may be able to recommend contractors who will work on an old building. There had been a group from Syracuse do one in 2014.

Carol Cox said we need to have a feasibility study for the library expansion. Janice suggested we ask Duane Austin to join an Advisory Committee for the building expansion. Janice will contact him.

**Blueberry & Book Festival:** Nancy had asked for comments and only Carol Leigh replied. She suggested we add meat to the Pancake breakfast. We would need to make a charge rather than donation for the breakfast. Better attractions may draw a bigger crowd but would also cost a lot more. Lisa noted that Donna Davis was a good worker with the Kiddie Parade and events. Paul Kasperek will help us get a better sound system for announcements.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Summer Programs:** covered under Director report.

**Guests:** The Patch Family representatives shared a written historical overview of the family connection to the Berkshire Free Library, and gave a nice donation from their recent family reunion's silent auction. They also gifted a framed history of the library with photos of their grandmother and great grandmother. Their note attached also details their plans to present future support via three budget lines: maintaining the building, funding general operations, and supporting the history center that preserves much of their family memorabilia. They reiterated that what we as a Board choose to do is what the family also wants. They are our liaison! The donation, history, and future support (plus lovely cookies) was greatly appreciated and thanks given by all the Trustees present.

Next year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their family house becoming a library, the same date as the 2026 Blueberry & Book Festival!

## **ROUND TABLE**

Graeme announced that he would not be doing book sales at the festivals. Also, selling books online requires from 5 to 15 hours per week. ABE has a new pricing model that may be alright depending on how much we sell.

There being no further business to conduct, Nancy moved for adjournment, Sue seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Merrill, Secretary