

**Berkshire Free Library
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
at the Berkshire Free Library
October 14, 2025**

Present: Carol Leigh, Janice Merrill, Lisa Michaud, Carol Cox, Barbara Schwartz, Fran Miller John Stoughton, and Nancy Lohmann.

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM by President John Stoughton. The Agenda was changed to include under Old Business: School Referendum on Tax for the Library and under New Business: Legislator Keith Flesher's remarks in the Owego Pennysaver of September 14.

REPORTS

Secretary: Minutes of the September 9th meeting were reviewed. There were no changes as presented.

Treasurer: On the Income Statement, Carol L noted the amount from the used book sale was donated at the Potato Festival. Fuel oil is \$600 more than last year's target. Fundraising campaign cost was minimal, and receipts as of this date are behind, though it's just getting started. Barbara made a motion to reach more donors by putting an 1/8 page ad in the Owego Pennysaver and the Tioga County Courier; Fran will put on the Library website as well as put the Patch brochure on the website. Nancy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Director: Fran noted the month's numbers were a little low. The Wilkins and Triad grants for summer reading will receive a thank you letter that includes what we did with the monies and what we plan to do for the next year. December 7th will be the Berkshire Tree Lighting event which is when the Fire Hall will hold their Santa party. Not sure when the coats will be here for distribution. The Richford Congregational Church's Kids Club meeting tomorrow will be the first Conflict Management program series. Thursday is Narcan training at the Fire Hall. Binghamton University students gave her posters to encourage us to become part of their "Life in the Southern Tier" study. The Tioga Down grant is due the end of October and Fran printed it off. She asked if we should ask for operating costs or summer story time. After conversation, Lisa moved and Barbara seconded that Fran apply as she thinks best. The motion was unanimously approved.

Nancy moved and Barbara seconded a motion to approve the above reports as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Grants were covered under the Directors Report.

Online Book Sales/Book Sale was covered under the Treasurers Report.

Building Update – Lisa received the SHPO letter and clarification and she presented a written report. It was reviewed and we talked about finding another group to do the feasibility study since he is more retired than full time. Lisa suggested we make an effort for greater community engagement in the building expansion and we have a survey table at the next Blueberry & Book Festival.

School Referendum – After reviewing the "Timeline FLLS Suggests for Libraries," Janice moved and Carol Cox seconded that we resolve to override the tax cap if increase amount is above the tax cap.

After vote, the motion was unanimously approved. Janice also suggested that we might want to attend a school board meeting before the required February/March 2026 school board attendance to request the proposition be placed on the ballot.

NEW BUSINESS

Halloween preparations – Fran is doing Trunk or Treat at Richford. Halloween night on Friday from 6 to 8 PM she will be at the library and hand out candy and books. There is no Fire Hall activity that night.

Christmas Tree Lighting – December 7th will be the event in both Richford and in Berkshire. Janice moved and Carol Cox seconded a motion to purchase a tree in the name of the Berkshire Free Library. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislator Flesher's remark - Carol Leigh shared a copy of the article where Flesher said of the \$1,300 county budget request we made that "They ask every year, and...the problem I have is coming to the county asking for money. We'd be pulling from the pool of all the county residents to pay for 7,000 residents." Northern Tioga County residents should remember his perception when voting next time. Also, we need representatives at the next County Budget Planning meeting to answer those questions more clearly than Legislator Flesher was able to voice them.

ROUND TABLE

Nancy said she had learned of a solar study being conducted by the Berkshire Community Hall Association regarding the possibility of having a shared generated energy between the Community Hall, the Fire Hall and the Library. No further information was ready to be shared at this point.

There being no further business to conduct, Barbara Schwartz moved we adjourn, Janice Merrill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully,

Janice Merrill, Secretary