

**Berkshire Free Library
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
at the Berkshire Free Library
April 14, 2026**

Present: Carol Cox, Nancy Lohmann, Carol Leigh, Janice Merrill, Fran Miller, Lisa Michaud, and Denny Dyer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by Vice President Carol Cox. Requested additions to the Agenda: Old Business – paying for Purple Lightning at Blueberry Festival.

REPORTS

Secretary: Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested.

Treasurer: So far we have received \$400 for Blueberry Festival vendors. Online book sales are still being received. Janice will US mail Graeme regarding online book sales and his intentions to continue as a Board member.

Director: Fran reviewed the numbers from last month, down slightly. She noted that Story Time will stop the end of April until July since there is no one to run that program. Crafters love the new table, thanks to Carol L. and Sue! Seed Savers is still going on. Matt Kistner of Northern Tioga Chamber of Commerce is working with her to feature local businesses and community events, and will also offer Q&A as a financial advisor.

Old Business: Grants: Fran wrote the Community Fdtn of Tompkins County grant for the workshop done earlier and for summer staff. She is waiting on an answer from the FL Mini Grant for kids books, literacy and reading.

New Business: The Bookcase of books at the Berkshire PO requested by the Postmaster is checked often and some books have been donated. They are free adult books being put back into circulation. Family Literacy Grant for \$500 will be for Museum of the Earth passes or something else educational.

Annual Report was distributed to all Trustees, and after review and explanations, Lisa moved it be approved as presented. Nancy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Irene Monte, our cleaner for years, has submitted her letter of resignation for personal reasons. Her last day is April 27th. Unfortunately, this is the day before Fran's planned knee surgery, but she felt Marcy is well trained to keep the library going in her absence for however long the knee takes to heal. She said Kim Sherwood is interested in cleaning the library, and Darlene Wait may be willing to be the backup person for this 2-hour a week position. Donna from Cornell Cooperative Extension has been volunteering with us for about five years and may be willing to help with Story Time crafts since Irene has helped with that in years past.

There being no further questions, Nancy moved the above reports be approved as presented. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Grants: Covered under Director's report.

Copier/Printer: Carol said the printer works sporadically and she will purchase another when it's necessary.

School Budget Status: It has been publicized in various ways, but Sarah of FLLS said we cannot publish anything that states "Vote Yes" in print. Other supporters may, but not the library or Trustees, but instead say "Support the Library."

Yard work: Mary Ellen feels she is able to accomplish what's needed in the yard and gardens and so no weekend jail workers will be called at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Programs: Fran said we cannot consider any new programs at this point except that Matt Kistner is coming in for Financial Advisor Q&As.

Nancy said she needed to let the Purple Lightning band know this week about being at the Blueberry Festival. Their suggested donation is \$250, and after discussion, we agreed it would be good especially with the country's 250th birthday. Carol moved and Lisa seconded we pay the donation requested, and the motion passed unanimously.

ROUNDTABLE

Denny said he would like to see a real bulletin board in the library rather than papers taped all over. Everyone agreed and tried to think of a place to put it.

Carol Leigh spoke with 4H/Cooperative Extension leaders and they are very interested in doing the ice cream stand at this year's Blueberry & Book Fest. Janice had not been successful at reaching Mike Gillio the Scout leader, though Bill Stell had said he thought they would be willing to return and do it. We will wait a couple of weeks and see about having a popcorn or other concession as well.

Berkshire Fire Dept is holding a BBQ on the 25th. Berkshire Town Cleanup Days will be held April 24 and 25 at the Town Hall.

Richford Congregational Church will hold a community wide Hymn Sing, with choirs from several local churches, refreshments following.

There being no further business to conduct, Nancy moved for adjournment, seconded by Lisa and unanimously approved.

Respectfully,

Janice Merrill, Secretary