

Friends of Onondaga Free Library  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date: December 3, 2025

Present: Directors: Lore DePalo, Sheila Graudons, Cara Kirkby, Barbara Leigh, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, Mary Taylor and Donna Zeolla

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Kathy DeSanctis, Naomi Kissel-Johns and Rod Maturan

Absent: George Bain

The meeting was opened at 1:30PM. The minutes from November were read online. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Donna Z., seconded by Lore D. and approved.

Director's Report: Susan M.

We had a phenomenal October and November thanks to Friends. The youth are really enjoying the new Nintendo and the games.

The stats look good for November.

We have a new substitute clerk, Ann Dobkowski, who has lots of library experience.

There will be a reception honoring Mary Ryan who was the Town Councilor who worked with the Library on Monday, December 15 at 5:00PM at the Board Meeting at the Town Hall.

Asks for January 2026:

Lucky Day Books - \$2000.00. A motion was made to fund Lucky Day Books for \$2000.00 by Pam M., seconded by Donna Z. and approved.

e-Books - \$6000.00. Susan M. explained that e-books usually cost three times what a printed version costs and that we don't own that e-Book. A motion was made to fund e-Books for \$6000.00 by Sheila G., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

Summer Reading Program - \$3000.00 A motion was made to fund the Summer Reading Program for \$3000.00 by Donna Z., seconded by Lore P. and approved.

Two sessions of Dance Classes - \$1200.00 A motion to fund spring and fall dance classes at a cost of \$1200.00 was made by Donna Z., seconded by Sheila G. and approved.

Lake Effect Winds – \$200.00 This is a woodwind quintet who will play here on Valentine's Day. A motion to fund Lake Effect Woodwinds was made by Pam M., seconded by Donna Z. and approved.

New Firewall for the internet service not to exceed \$1700.00 – after discussion it was decided that this should be a Library budgeted item since it is hardware.

Juvenile Fiction Chairs – The site that we found with hugely discounted price for these chairs turned out to be a scam. We thought the \$2000.00 was for three "flowers" but it turns out that it is only the center and two petals. We asked that the Library look for less

expensive seating. Susan M. will meet with the Demco rep to see if she can negotiate a better price.

The total for the approved items is \$12,400.00. George B. will write a check after January 1, 2026.

Treasurer's Report: George B. via e-mail

Here is the Friends financial report after today's deposit..

Our current checking account balance of \$18,296.89 compares to \$20,877.58 as of Dec. 3, 2024. Gifts to the library account for the difference in income, as we've given the library \$23,470.62 this year, compared to \$16,920.85 for all of last year, an increase of nearly 39%. Memberships (net of expenses like PayPal fees) of \$10,456.97 already exceed last year's final total of \$9,900.90.

The Festival of Trees, a current net of \$1,035.20, lags behind last year's \$1,106.78 as of Dec. 3.

Online used book sales of \$216.21 lag compared to a year ago at \$797.68. No sales have been reported since July; last year's figure shows sales through November.

Reimbursements for the fall book sale preview reduced this year's used book sale net to \$9,766.71, compared to last year's total net of \$7,805.97.

After last month's electronic discussion of allowing charge cards to pay for Festival of Trees tickets, I studied this year's PayPal fees on memberships and the use of Zettle (a PayPal feature) for credit card purchases at the fall used book sale and attach my findings. You will also see a short analysis and my thoughts if the board wants to set any policy on their use. There's no rush. It's just food for thought.

George

For the Festival of Trees, we will accept only cash or check for tickets. We need to make patrons aware of this through all our advertising. It is not the staff's responsibility to learn Zettle for card transactions.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Sheila G., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

Approval of New Director:

Naomi Kissel-John has agreed to become a director. She has been stepping up to do several tasks including incorporating a business data base and agreeing to back up Lore D. as IT director. She will move into our regular election rotation in April. A motion was made to elect Naomi Kissel-John as a Director by Sue P., seconded by Sheila G. and approved. Thank you, Naomi!

IT Updates: Lore D.

Lore D. created a simple spreadsheet to use when someone purchases things and does not want to be reimbursed. She will send a copy to everyone and we will send it to George B. quarterly. This will help project the true cost of projects. Lore D. Will work with Naomi K-J. after the new year. Lore D. will write a description of IT for the Bylaws after the new year.

Membership Committee: Kathy D.

We are doing well although responses are slowing down. We have less members but they are giving more money. We have 126 members giving a total of \$8817.00 with \$69.97 being the average gift.

Elizabeth Costello will need a few weeks off so Lore D. will back her up.

Festival of Trees: Mary T.

Sales are up! We ran out of the first 1000 tickets so we needed to purchase more.

Mary T. is almost ready to send the procedure for the Festival to Google Drive.

Recap of Directors Meeting: Mary Beth R.

Mary Beth R. will meet with Susan M. after the new year to discuss the meeting.

We need to coordinate with Chantal Rothermel all media so that it looks the same on the websites.

Highlight a business member of the month at the Friends Corner. Have window stickers for business members.

Possibly do a different mailing for potential new members.

New Brochure emphasizing Be A Friend, Make A Friend theme

Possibly design a new logo. After discussion we will not create a new logo.

Little Free Library: Mary Beth R.

The little free library at the laundromat is being abused. The signs have been tampered with and books go missing very quickly. Junk is always on the shelves. It was decided to discontinue placing books at this site. We will leave the shelving.

We will discuss replacing this site with another in the spring.

Sue P. will check with Nate from NRD Media to see if it is still worth our while to scan books for resale.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, at 1:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary