Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library

October 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mary Ann

Attendance

Mary Ann Taylor, Lauren Chappell, Janis Giles, Doret Pool, Liz Robinson, Maureen Castiglione, Becky Rowlands, Chris Castiglione, Diane Giarrusso, Julie Naughton

September Minutes:

Doret moved to accept the minutes as presented and Janis seconded the motion.

Treasurers Report

Janis presented the financials through September, showing the difference between January through September of 2026 compared to the same months in 2025. Overall, the 2026 income is 4% below what is was in 2025 and the expenses are 13% above the previous year. The year to date net operating income for 2026 is -$11,342.91. The primary reason is the reduction in monies received for fund raising events and lower donations.

The assets total $83,681. At the current time, funds are being kept in the Rockland account but the plans are to move that to the new Tewksbury Federal Credit Union account by the end of the second quarter, 2027.

Doret moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Director's Report – Diane Giarrusso

Diane introduced the new Assistant Director, Becky Rowlands. Welcome, Becky. She also announced that the Reference Librarian, Annalisa Moretti is leaving the library.

The library will participate in FallOWeen on Sunday, October 18th. There will be small pumpkins for decorating a pumpkin carver, and candy. In addition, on Saturday, October 31 from 9AM to approximately 4PM,the library will have goodies at the front, children's desk and reference desk.

Diane has requested her staff to provide 2027 information costs for programmers. She is planning on presenting that information to the Board in November or December.

The library will be closed on Monday, October 12th in recognition of Columbus/Indigenous People's Day.

Trustee Report if Available

Julie Naughton informed the Board that the Trustee are working on refreshing policies with Diane

Old Business:

2026 Book Donation Event September 19

Another successful event for book donations. Thanks again to Nancy B, Joanne T and Barbara V for their support.

Final Book Donation of 2026 is November 7.

Musical Video Bingo – 11/14

Sales have not been going well for this event. A poster is in the library lobby and Mary Ann has been putting notices on social media. In addition, Diane is going to put it on the electronic sign. We need to encourage people to buy tickets.

Blind Date with a Book Sale

The Friends joined the library staff at the Community Market on Thursday, Sept 10 to sell Blind Date with a Books. Once again we sold out all our books!

Discuss Library Funding for 2027

Library funding for 2027 was agreed to repeat 2026 for $30,000. As mentioned last month, the Friends will be giving one check to the Library Director in January 2027 and programming/service costs will be paid by library staff.

New Business:

Blind Date with a Book Sale – November 21 @ the Library from 9:30 – 12:30

We will have over 50 books to sell at the event. Mary Ann is in the process of writing the book blurbs and will look to our "wrappers" for their wrapping expertise. Mary Ann ordered the paper that will be used for wrapping.

Upcoming Fund Raisers:

Ideas are needed to develop more fund raisers.

Dine Out

Mary Ann will check with Kyoto to see if they will offer a fundraiser during November.

Countdown to Christmas Fund Raiser

We need to start soliciting for gift cards ($10 and over) for our December fundraiser. Raffle ticket sales should start the 1st week in November. Mary Ann will work on the Friends website.

Giving Thursday, Dec 1

In November, Mary Ann will work on creating social media to promote this event.

Friends Awareness Program

We are continuing to create awareness on what the Friends do for the library. We work with library staff to find out what in-person events are scheduled for large turnouts.

Friends' Monthly Meeting Information

Past minutes, current meeting agenda and Director's Report can be found on the Friends' website under the tab "About Us". This is the link About Us.
The current agenda and meeting minutes are available on the Friends' website. Zoom invites will be included on this page as well. Interested folks may also email the Friends for the Zoom invite.
Meeting reminders will be posted in the library and Friends emails.
Note: Attendance at meetings has been sparse. Therefore other than our Annual Meeting, in-person meetings will be discontinued until further notice.

Lauren moved that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Janis. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Proposed Fundraisers for 2026

Blind Date a Book Sales TBD

January
Membership Drive

February
Love Your Library Promotion – Request online donations
Blind Date with a Book

March
Dine Out (#1) Vic's Waffle House

April
Wine Tasting @ Oakdale
"Dine Out Free for a Week" (DOFW) Raffle

May
Mac's Ice Cream
Friends Bake Sale & Blind Date Book Sale to coincide with Garden Club Event

June
Concert Raffle Sales
Dine Out (#2) – Wicked Cheesy

July
Concert Raffle Sales

August
Concert Raffle Sales

September
Blind Date w/Book @ Community Market

October

November
Musical Bingo
Dine Out?
Countdown to Christmas

December
Giving Tuesday Dec 1
Countdown to Christmas

2026 PROPOSED CALENDAR

JANUARY 1/7 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom Start of Membership Drive	**FEBRUARY** National Love Your Library Month: Love Your Library Fund Drive 2/4 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom Blind Date w/Book Sales: 2/12 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Winter Market – Tewksbury Senior Center 2/21 Book Donation Event	**MARCH** 3/4 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom 3/30 Dine Out at Vic's Waffle House @ 4pm – 7p with 50/50 raffle
APRIL 4/1 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom 4/25 Annual Board Meeting @ 10 am 4/28 Wine Tasting @ One Stop Liquors/Oakdale	**MAY** 5/2 Book Donation Event 5/13 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom 5/16 Friends Bake Sale Date coincides with Garden Club Event: 9:30 – 12:30 pm 5/19 Mac's Ice Cream Dine Out	**JUNE** 6/4 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom 6/15 Summer Concert 6/22 Summer Concert TBD Dine Out at Wicked Cheesy 6/29 Summer Concert
JULY FOTPL Meeting Suspended Summer Concerts starting @ 6:30 pm	**AUGUST** FOTPL Meeting Suspended Summer Concerts starting @ 6:00 pm	**SEPTEMBER** 9/2 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom 9/10 Community Market (Blind Date w/Book sales) 9/19 Book Donation Event
OCTOBER 10/1 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom	**NOVEMBER** 11/4 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom 11/7 Book Donation Event 11/14 Musical Bingo Fundraiser @ Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks Lodge @ 7 pm	**DECEMBER** 12/1 Giving Tuesday 12/2 FOTPL Meeting @ 7 pm Zoom