

Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library

September Board Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2025

Attendees: Lauren Chappell, Nancy Cohen, Janette Crawford, Polly Flanagan, Diane Giarrusso, Janis Giles, Nicole Goolishian, Bonnie Page, Doret Pool, Liz Robinson, Mary Ann Taylor, Joanne Toppin.

Acceptance of Minutes: Joann Toppin moved to accept the minutes. Doret Pool seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

- Currently, the Friends have about \$42,000 available for immediate use.
- There is another \$31,000 in a Town Account that requires a request and permission to use.
- Gross Revenue for 2025 is about \$200 more than 2024 YTD.
- Total spending year to date for programs 2024 was \$40,472 and for 2025, \$39,020.
- Special Fundraising year to date is down by about \$100 from 2024.
- Nancy Cohen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Doret Pool seconded.

Director's Report:

- The summer was busy, with 21,617 visitors.
- 36,910 items were checked out over the summer.
- The Teen Department doubled the school supply drive from 2024, and 120 students and families benefitted in the first 15 minutes of distribution.
- There is a whimsical Stick Library available for your 4-legged friends. It is dedicated to the library's reading dogs.
- September is Library Card Month. Use your library card at town businesses to receive discounts. More information is available on the website.
- MassHire van visits the library once a week (Wednesday mornings) to provide job seeking assistance.
- VinFen comes once a week to help with housing needs.
- Tech help is available by appointment at the library.

Trustee Report:

- Bonnie Page was in attendance to provide a trustee report.
- Trustees met and freshened up assorted library policies.

Dine Out Free For a Week Fundraiser:

- 66 raffle tickets were sold for a total of \$660.
- Methuen resident, Gerard Donahue was the lucky winner of \$25 gift cards to:
 - Longs
 - Pera Mediterranean Grill
 - TJ Callahans
 - Al Maidah
 - Pullup
 - Origin Thai Bistro
 - Al Fresca Ristorante

Summer Concerts:

- Sales were brisk and patrons were generous. Sales were good.
- Final numbers will be reported at October meeting.

Blind Date With a Book Fundraiser:

- This is a popular fundraiser.
- We will be selling once again at the September 11th Community Market.
- Request was made for donations of books in excellent condition to be used for this program.

Tareila Missions Grant:

- This grant of under \$300 is offered by the Tewksbury Congregational Church. Mary Ann Taylor has made contact and is waiting to hear back about submissions.
- We should find out more in October.

Friends Awareness Program:

- Friends' members try to have a monthly presence at large gatherings at the library.
- Anyone with any ideas to increase Friends' visibility and or fundraiser ideas, please email the Friends at tplibrary@gmail.com

Friends Monthly Meeting Information:

- In-person meetings have been discontinued until further notice. We will meet via zoom for the foreseeable future.
- Past minutes, current meeting agenda, and Director's Report can be found on the Friends' website under the tab "About Us".

Community Market:

- September 11, 2025 at Livingston Field
- Friends will be joining the library staff.
- Blind Date With a Book books will be sold for \$5 per book (cash only)

Dine Out:

- The next Dine Out is at Brothers Sports Bar and Grille on Monday, September 15 from 11 am to 10 pm. This is dine in or takeout food orders.
- Make sure to mention Friends when you order so that we get 20% of your food order cost.

Book Donation Drive:

- The next book donation drive will be at the library on Saturday, September 20th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Books in excellent condition will be used for Blind Date with a Book.
- Books in good condition will be available for sale on the Friends Honor Cart in the library.
- We do not accept textbooks, encyclopedias, and dictionaries or damaged, yellowed, or musty books.
- All profits from book sales benefit library programming.

Fall-O-Ween:

- October 19 from 11 am to 3:30 pm on the Town Common.
- We will join with the library.
- We will possibly have a baked goods/treats sale.

Improv Night:

- Fundraiser will be starring Queen City Improv on Saturday, November 8th at Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks Lodge.
- Show starts at 7:30 pm, with doors opening at 7:00 pm.
- Tickets are \$25 each with a table discount of 10 tickets for \$225.
- Buy tickets on the Friends website. There is a limited number of tickets, so get your tickets soon.
- A 50/50 cash raffle will be held prior to the show.
- No outside beverages allowed. There will be a cash bar available.
- Feel free to bring pre-packaged snacks.