

Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library

January 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Mary Ann Taylor, Janis Giles, Diane Giarrusso, Nicole Goolishian, Cathy Dwyer, Lauren Chappel, Maureen Castiglone, Doret Pool, Liz Robinson

Acceptance of Minutes

Janis Giles moved to accept the December 2025 minutes. Mary Ann Taylor seconded the motion.

Treasurers Report – Janis Giles

Review of the Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Comparison reports

- Assets are \$95,444 with \$10,980 in capital funds that cannot be used for general expenses
- Total income for 2025 was \$63,760. Total expenses were \$59,546 with a net operating income of \$4,214.
- For the month of December 2025, we made \$6,544
- Biggest gains were with the Improv Night and Blind Date with a Book for the entire year.
- Donations are down from 2025.
- Report was not approved at this time due to the omission of the expense associated with insurance.

Director's Report – Diane Giarrusso

- Patrons read 13,531 books during 2025
- "Let's Read" has launched and books read can be documented on Beanstack or on paper forms found at the library or on the library website.
- Changes are being made to the Children's space with new shelving and more space to display new children's books. A space is being set up for children ages 7 to 10,
- A new book discussion group is forming. "Into the Past" will meet on the last Thursday morning of the quarter at 10:30 in the Meeting Room. Books are available at the front desk.
- Second quarter statistics: There were 228 in person programs with 13,059 attendees and 101 virtual programs with 13,635 attendees (does not reflect person looking at program on social media).
- Library will be closed January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Trustee Report – Cathy Dwyer

- The first meeting for the year will be next week.

Old Business:

- Tareila Missions Grant

It was determined that due to time constraints and manner that the grant might be paid, we would not pursue this grant for 2026.

- Giving Tuesday: Dec 2

The Friends promoted this event for a donation to the Friends for GivingTuesday. *GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity.*

- Countdown to Christmas

Janis reported that Countdown to Christmas made \$1,229, which was less than last year. And thanks again to Janis for spearheading this event.

- Friends Awareness Program

Continue to create awareness on what the Friends do for the library. We work with Robert Hayes to find out what in-person events are scheduled for large turnouts. Our goal is to have a monthly presence at these events

- 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.

New Business

- Due to other commitments, Nancy Cohen has stepped down as secretary. Thank you, Nancy, for your assistance and we look forward to your support with future events. Doret Pool has agreed to be the new secretary.
- The original May meeting on May 6th conflicts with the Annual Town Meeting. It was agreed that the May Friends meeting would be moved to the following week: May 13.
- Dates for Book Donations

The start of the 2026 Dates for Book Donations may be in February. Mary Ann will coordinate with Nancy regarding that

- Fundraisers for 2026

Blind Date a Book Sales may start in February with the Love Your Library promotion

Other

- January:
 - Membership drive. Mary Ann will work with Lauren to do an email blast
- February
 - Love Your Library Promotion. We will request online donations. In addition, our banner will be put up that has the QR code.
- March
 - Dine Out possibly at Vic's Waffle. Lauren will work with Vic's to see when we can schedule
- April
 - Possibly do a wine tasting at Oakdale. Mary Ann will check on this.
 - May start the "Dine Out Free for a Week" raffle. Event made \$670 in 2025 and most of the purchases were done online.
- May
 - Will try to get the Friends Bake Sale Date to coincide with Garden Club Event which is scheduled for May 16th from 9 to 2.
 - Mac's Ice Cream (?)
- June
 - Concert Raffle Sales
 - Dine Out (2)?
- July
 - Concert Raffle Sales
- August
 - Concert Raffle Sales
- September
 - Dine Out (3)?
- October
- November
 - Dine Out (4)?
- December

Any ideas for Dine Out locations or other fund raisers, please contact Mary Ann. It was suggested that Meadowlands might be a good Dine Out for later in the year since they are now open all year.

2026 Activity Calendar TBD