

FRIENDS OF THE AMHERST PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING

Minutes for May 27, 2026

Called to Order: 11:20 AM

Present: Megan Karhusz, Sandee Ruth, Carol Hutner, Carol McKee, Barbara Brown, Victoria Mowcomber, Jackie Fedako, Barbara Gilbert Whitcomb, Marcia Kubach, Patti Drew, Laurie Laubacher, Kay Clark, Marilyn Hubbard, Cookie McLoda, Liz Hui.

Previous Minutes: Kay Clark moved to accept the minutes from the April 22 meeting. Patti Drew seconded. **Motion carried.**

Guest Speaker: Megan Karhusz, Youth Services Manager, presented to request funds for making updates to the play area of the children's section of the library. Since the renovation in 2022, there has been a huge uptick in the amount of families who come to the library. The library has become a destination; the families come to check out books but also come to play for hours at a time and even have playdates here. Because of this, there has been a lot of wear and tear on the current play area items. A lot of the current items were donated and were originally meant for a home and not a public space. The library really needs items that will hold up over a long period of time, but also be very engaging for children. One requested item is a play kitchen which comes with a microwave/dishwasher, refrigerator, sink, and stove. The second item is an imagination truck; kids can walk into the truck and the truck can be changed to be used in different ways (food truck, ice cream truck, post office, etc.) The amount requested is \$3,650.65. **Carol McKee** motioned to approve the funding request; **Les Kreeger** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Hubbard reported:

April 22, 2026 – May 26, 2026

Checking: \$16,201.41

CD: \$6,566.37

Total Assets: \$22,767.79

Book Nook for April-May: \$184

Report was submitted for audit.

Correspondence: None.

Library Liaison: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Auditing: Kay Clark. Kay will work auditing for next month.

Author Lunch: Laurie Laubacher. No report.

Book Nook: Kay Clark. April's proceeds were \$184. The book nook lockbox & key are repaired.

Book Sale: Les Kreeger. Les thanked everybody who helped make the spring book sale a success.

Budget: Cookie McLoda. Cookie revised the budget to include the kindergarten reading book budget up to \$1,500, and increased the budget for blue bags from \$800 to \$1,200. The budget will also be revised to add in the recently purchased library literacy tools and the kids play area that was approved in today's meeting. **Barbara Brown** motioned to approve the new budget; **Carol McKee** seconded. **Motion approved.**

Bulletin Board: Angela Cecil. No report.

Bylaws: Cookie McLoda. No report.

Fundraising: Liz Hui. No report.

Kindergarten Reading: Victoria Mowcomber. Victoria presented that this year's theme will be: being unique, inclusion, and friendship. The next step is that Scholastic will narrow down titles based on this theme, and send them to Victoria for review.

Membership: Carol Hutner. Carol reported that current membership is at 73 members.

Nominating: Barb Brown. No report.

100 Day School Restock: Angela Cecil. No report.

Publicity: Liz Hui. The Friends' Facebook followers are up to 567. Shred Day is publicized on social media and will go out to the usual outlets shortly.

Shredding: Rhonda Neuhoﬀ. No report.

Sunshine: Kathy Michaels. Cards were requested for Marilyn Bronson and Malvine Zahratka.

Old Business:

- Directional library street signs from Judco have been installed.

New Business:

- Marilyn Hubbard noted that the CD is coming due, and that the Friends is earning about \$200/year. The CD will be renewed.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2026 at 11:15 AM