

**MINUTES OF THE BERNARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
May 21, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: John Bertoni, Joan Contess, Rich Diegnan, Mark Krook, Robert Re, and Dr. Brian Brotschul were present. Mary Fran Daley, Executive Director of the Library, was in attendance.

President Bertoni called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice as follows:

**Notice of Meeting:**

- In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act (c.231, P.L. 1975), written notice of this regular meeting has been sent to the following newspapers: The Bernardsville News and The Daily Record. Written notice has also been sent to the Borough Clerk and posted on the Library’s website.
- The agenda and documents to be discussed at this meeting are available for review in advance of today’s meeting on the [Library’s website](#), and at the Library’s circulation desk during regular library hours.
- Members of the public are invited to comment either during the public comment period of the meeting or by submitting written or emailed comments in advance of the meeting. All commenters should identify themselves by name and street address and limit their comments to three minutes.

**Roll Call**Disposition of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Mr. Re moved for the Board to accept the April minutes. Ms. Contess seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Director’s Report**

In addition to the Director’s report submitted, Ms. Daley noted:

- Patronage numbers were lower in comparison to April 2023, however not a concern; overall numbers remain steady
- E-book costs are increasing; may need to limit certain check-out levels.
- Beatles concert was very well attended, and Book Sale is going well.
- MAIN app now accepts credit card payments for fines exceeding \$5.00.
- Director Daley noted that there were certain inaccuracies in the Bernardsville News coverage of the flooding at the Library, and noted that Jack McDowell, as well as the Library staff, did a tremendous job and no part of the Library collection was lost as a result of their efforts. Borough will be taking care of the remedial costs and are currently waiting on 2 quotes.
- Staff development day is May 10th.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We are one-third of the way through the year. The expectation remains that the draft budget will be approved by the Town Council as submitted.

- All spending in line with expectations.
- The Auditor bill should be coming in next month or so.

Mr. Krook moved to approve the Treasurer's report and the new bills to be paid as presented from 4/17 to 6/18. Resolution to Act Upon Bills *2024-16* and approve the Treasurer's report was seconded by Ms. Contess, which was then passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Committee Reports** Finance – no committee meeting held.

- **Personnel** – No meeting. Fran and Ms. Verduin met to review her comments and questions associated with the goals. We discussed and validated the intention of the goals and have drafted minor revisions that make the goals clearer. Ms. Verduin will be forwarding to the Personnel Committee and then the full board.
- **Policy** – no committee meeting held.
- **Planning** – no committee meeting held.

### **Public Presentations or Comments**

- **Friends of the Library** – Ms. Verduin submitted the following report:
  - Our concert, The Beatles Tribute Band, was held at the Community in Crisis center with 48 attendees. The change in location worked well.
  - There are plans to hold our senior breakfast and concert on June 7th, there as well.
  - The youth program committee is working with Becky on the start and ending of the summer reading program.
- We continue to make plans for National Friends week (October 20-26) which will include a mini art show (small canvases that will be given to all participants and displayed throughout the library in October, expanded Shop, Sip and Support, Spelling bee returns as well as a number of other programs. (note: returning school and local business commitments for the Spelling Bee).
- **Bernardsville Library Foundation** –
  - Our 2024 Annual Appeal Letter was mailed last week to all residents of Bernardsville and Far Hills.
  - Library Giving Day has received over \$16,000 in donations.
  - Our Endowment stands at \$670,000 as of April 30; up 43% since January 1, 2023.
  - We will be sending a second mailing in June to all residents of Bernardsville and Far Hills that will include a book of 5-50/50 raffle tickets (\$10 each); and a Grand Raffle Ticket (\$100) for the chance to win one of 3 prizes similar to last year;
    - a) Broadway ticket package for 4, plus Dinner and RT transportation (\$2000)
    - b) Golf package for 3 people (\$800)
    - c) Dinner at the Red Horse Restaurant and a room at the Bernards Inn (\$550).

**Communications –**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

To be carried until next meeting.

**New Business**

None.

At 6:32 p.m. the Public Session was adjourned.

Robert Re  
Vice President  
Bernardsville Library