

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
2009 Organizing Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2010

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President John Deibert. Those in attendance were Mark Aronson, Karen Brodsky, John Deibert, Georgiana Depew, Doug Doremus, Barbara Duffy, Elizabeth Faulkner, Rick Gallo, Shellie Iossa, Jos Kadam, Harold Kuskin, Roni Larini, Kathy Redling, Jackie Somers, Rita Stein and guest-Caroline Browne.

President's Remarks –

John Deibert opened his remarks by recognizing Karen Brodsky for her recognition as having been named one of the Outstanding Women in Somerset County for her Public Service. He continued with details from the Library Board of Trustees meeting on January 19th which he, Georgiana Depew and Roni Larini attended and heard their discussion on the possible Trustees Foundation that their committee is investigating. John explained that the Foundation was intended more as an endowment than a fund raising effort which could be utilized to cover operating expenses. The Board of Trustees is considering hiring a consultant to investigate and evaluate the possibility of creating a Trustees Endowment Foundation and a possible consultant will be making a presentation at their February 16th meeting.

John noted that when he originally joined the Friends Board he had many questions and it took him a while to become acclimated with the various committee workings and schedules. As a result he has created a Board Member Manual with help from some other members. He circulated copies to all members who were present and asked them to review the entire manual prior to a full discussion and hopefully an approval of the document as the official Board Members Manual for the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library.

Correspondence- there has been none received per Rita Stein.

Treasurer's Report-

Jackie Somers presented the Balance Sheet as of January 15, 2010 and covered the current rate of 1% for the High Yield CD at Peapack Gladstone Bank along with the Schack donation that is still in the Somerset Hills Bank account. The recently donated stock certificates from the Bunce sisters was recognized and discussed along with the Board's current investment policy. Mark Aronson made a motion that the Board accept the shares in accordance with the Finance Committee's current Investment Policy. Jackie Somers seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes- The minutes of the November 18, 2009 Annual Meeting and the November 18, 2009 Reorganization Meeting were previously provided to Board Members. It was asked if there were any changes, questions or omissions. Rita Stein made a motion to accept the minutes of both November Board Meetings. Georgiana Depew seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Director's Report-

Karen Brodsky shared the recently published "A Town History The Story of Bernardsville" in cooperation with the 2008/9 4th grade at Bedwell School, SHEF, Friends and the Library Staff. She has been told that they may be able to be used in a fund raising capacity in the future by SHEF, who funded the majority of the project, or thought the Friends might be able to use them to facilitate some fund raising as well.

Karen noted recent purchases made with funding from the Friends including 3 replacement Computers, a replacement Barcode Scanner, and a membership with the Highland Library Association for approximately 200 titles that will be used on the new Sony E Book. The acquisition of a Chess Table as a memory gift for past Friends President Tom She is a challenge due to the distinct style and wood of the Library's existing furniture. Karen requested permission to consider alternative memory gifts that would be in accordance with Tom Shea's interests.

Karen reminded Friends members that on Sunday February 28th, exactly 10 years to the day after the opening of the new Library Building there will be a celebration at 3:00pm. John Deibert confirmed that Elizabeth Faulkner will make a short presentation on behalf of the Friends and thank Fran and Jerry Fischer for their work then and today.

Committee Reports

Finance – Mark Aronson circulated the 2010 Tentative Budget and explained the need for an adjustment to add a Row for "Professional Fees" that would cover tax preparation and audit costs that were expected to be \$1350.00 for 2010. Following discussion Harold Kuskin made a motion to add the line and additional costs under Recurring Board Expenses. Elizabeth Faulkner seconded the motion and it was passed with a vote of the board members present.

The two recently donated stock certificates are currently in non-restricted funds and the Finance Committee recommends that the Friends Board sell the stock and redirect the funds under a conservative strategy. Rita Stein made a motion to Sell all of the Stock Certificates, and the motion was seconded by Doug Doremus. The Motion was approved following a request confirming all questions had been answered. Jackie Somers will contact Fidelity Investments to execute the sale, and notify the Board when the sales have been executed.

Mark Aronson explained that there was a need to carryover \$1723.13 from Budget year 2009 into 2010 and have the funds allocated per Library Director Karen Brodsky's request:

1. Special and Reference Sources: Requesting carryover of \$753 because the State Library cancelled the online resources HeritageQuest without any notice and we have no funds budgeted to cover the unexpected \$753 cost. HeritageQuest is the second—most heavily used online resource we provide.
2. Dedications: The gift in honor of Tom Shea has not yet been purchased.
3. Children's Enrichment: Because the \$3,000 budgeted for this line in 2010 will be used exclusively to match the \$3,000 grant from SHEF, our Youth Services Department will not be able to purchase items that don't support the school curriculum unless funding is found here. Requesting balance remaining - \$621.11.
4. E-Books Project – the ebook reader was purchased in late December but not the ebooks – require remainder of the gift made for that purpose -- \$99.02.

Shelly Iossa made a Motion to reallocate \$1723.13 from budget year 2009 to 2010 in accordance with Karen's request, and Harold Kuskin seconded the motion which carried.

Mark Aronson noted that an adjusted Friend of the Bernardsville Public Library – 2010 Budget would need to be approved and he would provide fully revised copies to members via email before the February Executive Board meeting. Rick Gallo made the motion to accept the adjusted budget for 2010 including the Professional Fees line and change in funding levels for Special and Reference Sources, Dedications, Children's Enrichment, and E-Books. The motion was seconded by Rita Stein and carried following a vote.

Fund Raising- Georgiana Depew noted that as of 12/31/09 the annual campaign had received \$24,850 including a \$1550 matching gift. There are \$3500 of matching gifts that have not yet been received. Her committee recently held a brainstorming meeting on fund raising topics and she shared them with the board at large. The first concept is Read Aloud Around Town, which the Friends of another New Jersey Public Library recently hosted. She discussed current steps being taken to evaluate if this fundraiser is feasible late this spring in Bernardsville. Another potential concept discussed at the committee meeting was an Author Luncheon possibly at a local restaurant. This has been done at some Libraries in Florida and elsewhere. Georgiana noted that the Fischers are still involved in encouraging major gifts and soliciting the sale of Bricks for the front walk and rear courtyard. She also mentioned that the committee was further investigating the possibility of electronic fund donations through board member, Doug Doremus's contacts.

Program Committee- Jos Kadam circulated a sign up sheet for those able to provide baked goods or assist in clean up following the Sunday January 24th at 3pm concert. The group, the Eric Olsen Jazz Trio should be very enjoyable and the cost will be \$450.00.

Public Relations- Shellie Iossa indicated that there would be upcoming publicity opportunities with the 10th anniversary of the Library Building who were involved in the fund raising for the new building over several years.

Old Business-

Museum Pass Ad Hoc committee-Harold Kuskin noted some of the museums the committee had contacted do not permit the type of membership the Library was seeking (The Met, etc) and the increased cost some were charging for this type of membership (Montclair Museum). He presented his committee's selection of Museums for the Library's initial one year Museum Pass Program.

1. Montclair Museum, cost \$165
2. Morris Museum, cost \$70
3. Zimmerman Museum, cost \$65
4. Natural History Museum, cost \$115
5. Guggenheim Museum, cost \$135

Harold noted that each pass would admit 2 adults and 2 children, and that the cost for the 5 selected museums would be \$550.00, only slightly more than the recommended maximum of \$500 discussed at the September 2009 Board Meeting. He indicated that the committee had researched the Early Trades Museum and El Museo del Barrio with a cost of \$50 and \$75 respectively but explained that would put the program over budget for the first year to include these.

Following discussion, Harold Kuskin made a motion to fund the purchase of membership passes for the library at the 5 museums that the committee selected. Elizabeth Faulkner seconded to motion and the motion passed with 12 votes.

A discussion was held about where the funding for these passes would or could come from, however, the original plan for the funding agreed upon by the Library staff will be utilized. President John Deiber thanked the Museum Pass Committee members.

Karen Brodsky noted that she had heard nothing regarding the New Jersey State Library Transformation Project.

New Business-President John Deibert asked if there was any further business. None was brought up, but he requested that in his absence all items of discussion for the February Executive Board Meeting be sent to him by January 30th. In closing he noted that he would have limited access to email while he was away, but Roni Larini would be available in his absence. He also thanked the Fund Raising and Finance Committees for their work during the past month.

Shelly Iossa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marc Aronson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Redling