

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
Bernardsville Public Library
August 18, 2009**

Attendance: Russ Giglio, Jim Kellett, Lucy Orfan and Maribeth Southworth were absent. Tom Shea, President of Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library (“Friends”), Madelyn English, Public Relations Coordinator, and Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, were also present.

Stephanie Wallace called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice.

Public Participation: Mr. Shea said that the Friends’ annual fund-raising campaign was due to start at the beginning of September, in the library bulletin for September through December and with individual letters to last year’s donors.

Minutes: Donald Burset moved approval of the minutes of the July meeting as circulated. Peter Miller seconded the motion, which carried.

Director’s Report:

Logo discussion: Mrs. English presented the four logo finalist designs; the board chose one that combines the new slogan with the old logo (moved by Mrs. Wallace, seconded by Terry Thompson; Mr. Burset abstained.



Ms. Brodsky answered questions about and presented additions to her written report, as follows:

- Shelley Jones’s service will be recognized at lunchtime (1 pm) on August 28, during the staff training session, which was the best time for Shelley. Board members are invited. Mr. Burset and Ms. Thompson said they could be there; others were going to try to attend.
- The staff is recommending a ten-year celebration of the library opening, tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2010. Ms. Brodsky asked if the board wanted a concert that day, and after discussion, we decided that selecting a concert genre might be difficult. Mr. Burset suggested we consider the Bernards High madrigal group; Mrs. Wallace and Ms. Thompson endorsed this suggestion. Mr. Burset also suggested the high school jazz band, or even the marching band (though space might be a problem. We briefly discussed who should make a request, if any, and decided that the library would handle the contacts when the plans were final.
- Ms. Brodsky and Ms. Thompson reported on the foundation committee’s meeting with Mr. Miller and Debra Wilkins of the SHSD, to learn about the district’s experience in setting up the Somerset Hills Educational Foundation, and discussed the action plan recommendation attached to the board package. Ms. Brodsky also reported on an exciting opportunity to get a quick-and-dirty consultant opinion, by attending a workshop sponsored by the NJLA on September 23 and then meeting with the consultant privately afterward.¹ After discussion, the board decided that

¹ “Getting Strong Public and Private Funding for Your Library” sponsored by the NJLA Urban Libraries Section with support from the NJ State Library and the four Regional Library Cooperatives will be Sept. 23, 2009 at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan. The Presenter is Peter Pearson, President, Friends of the Saint Paul

the \$150 charge would be well worth it. Mr. Burset asked Mr. Shea if the Friends would be willing to fund this charge. After discussion, Mr. Shea agreed to consider it and get back to Ms. Brodsky.²

- Ms. Brodsky reported on some serious plumbing problems, solved temporarily but requiring further work. The upside is that the photography of the plumbing lines recommended by the plumber will be done in addition to the “noisy” work already scheduled for the annual staff development day when the library is closed (August 28), so as to keep patron discomfort to a minimum.

Treasurer’s Report and Finance discussion: In Mr. Kellett’s absence, Mrs. Wallace reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Thompson moved to pay the new bills received from August 1 to 18, 2009, to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from July 22-31, 2009, and to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Mrs. Wallace seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. McCrossan offered some information about the likely basis of the 2010 municipal budget, saying that he expected assessed property values to drop by 5.2% from the 2009 total, and that the borough’s health care costs were expected to increase by 18% and the pension contributions also to rise, by a unknown percentage expected to be in “double figures”. In addition, the county has asked for a full reassessment of all property, another cost to the borough. After discussion, we decided not to change the draft budget adopted last month, as the library has already made significant cuts and we thought it important that the borough know how much the library really needs to continue its operations at the current level.

Committee Reports: none.

Communications: none.

Old Business: Ms. Brodsky reported that the lighting contract work is expected to take less than 8 weeks and is still scheduled to be done in September.

New Business: Ms. Thompson offered to host the annual staff party on the evening of Friday, November 20. The board agreed.³

At 6:21 pm, Mr. Burset moved that the board go into executive session to approve the minutes of the executive session on July 21. Mrs. Wallace seconded the motion, which carried.

The executive session ended at 6:25 pm and Mr. Burset moved that the meeting adjourn; Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Thompson, Secretary

Public Library. This workshop will offer strategies to develop a grass-roots advocacy effort with local funders and discuss ways to keep elected officials from reducing your budget and use private funds to maintain basic services. Peter Pearson is a leader and visionary in the national library community and has served as President of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library for 16 years. Under his direction, The Friends has received numerous awards for successful advocacy, public relations, fund raising and cultural programming.”

² Ms. Brodsky subsequently reported that the Friends agreed to cover the charge.

³ BOARD MEMBERS; PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.