

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bernardsville Public Library  
April 21, 2009**

**Attendance:** Russ Giglio and John McCrossan were absent. John Deibert, Finance Chair of Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library (“Friends”), and Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, were also present.

Stephanie Wallace called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice.

**Public Participation:** Mr. Deibert said that Ms. Brodsky was working with the Friends to create a policy manual, and that the life insurance policy on Ethel Schacht, a long-time library supporter who passed away recently, would give the Friends about \$28,000.

**Minutes:** Jim Kellett moved approval of the minutes of the March meeting as circulated; Stephanie Wallace seconded the motion, which carried.

**Director’s Report:** Karen Brodsky reported on a very troublesome incident that occurred on April 15; the Bernardsville police visited the library with information that an email, threatening students at Bernards High School, had been sent from a library computer. The police were told that nothing could be provided without a subpoena and also of the clearing of machines that occurs on a daily basis. The message was traceable only to the library’s server and not to an individual computer because of the regular clearing. They did not actually return with a search warrant or subpoena. Peter Miller, who had been in on the investigation from the outset because of the threat to the high school, related that the perpetrator had been located by other means, and confessed to sending the message, rendering the need to search library records moot. He mentioned that the Somerset County prosecutor’s office had been ready to issue a warrant for all the library’s computers, as the threat level seemed quite serious. Staff handled the incident well and stood firm on our policy.

Ms. Brodsky also reported that Sarah Karish, a technical services assistant, has submitted her resignation.

She also reported on very positive developments with the new logo, a series of excellent designs have been provided and are being evaluated. The slogan launch in conjunction with National Library Week is a current “happening”.

Circulation is up appreciably, including book circulation. However, supply costs may also be going up as Amazon appears to be unable to provide a New Jersey business registration certificate.

Mrs. Wallace moved a resolution that four Dell computers, three Compaq computers, and a non-functioning Dukane film strip projector are no longer needed for public service. Donald Burset seconded the motion, which carried.

The Policy Committee will consider the requested change to the Bulletin Board policy to allow preference to community groups.

Ms. Brodsky will contact the family of Eileen Johnston to tell them that several colleagues of Ms. Johnston, a long-time library volunteer, who died recently, wish to make gifts to the library in her memory; the library was not so designated by her family.

Ms. Brodsky commented on the name change at the former Rutgers School of Communication, Information and Library Studies – now just Communication and Information.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Kellett reviewed the Treasurer's Report, noting that fines, donations and photocopying all show slight increases. The electric bill is equivalent to that a year ago, but for less electricity. As the borough has decided not to defer its pension payments this year, the library will follow suit. Mrs. Wallace moved to pay the new bills received from April 1 to 21, 2009, to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from March 19-31, 2009, and to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Committee Reports:** none. The Long Range Planning Committee was reminded to review the materials Ms. Brodsky sent on March 20.

**Communications:** various letters were circulated regarding the (now withdrawn) bill to change library funding. Mrs. Wallace reminded of the Morris-Union Federation dinner: Mr. Burset will attend with Ms. Brodsky. She also reminded about the May 9 Trustee's Institute.

**Old Business:** Ms. Brodsky reported that John MacDowall had called to let her know that the borough has received an energy audit grant from the county that covers the library and other borough buildings, and it will be under way soon. The solar heating depends on the outcome of that audit.

**New Business:** Ms. Thompson mentioned her idea that the library outdoor faucet could supply water for the watering of the planters, donated by Friends for a Greener Bernardsville, to be placed on the new lamp posts. The board concurred so long as there is no extra expense borne by the library. Ms. Brodsky thought it was a sensible idea as the library is closer to downtown than is Borough Hall. Ms. Thompson will pursue this with the borough.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Thompson, Secretary