

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.  
January 4th 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Friends board meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Nancy Verduin. In attendance were Katherine Harris, Maria Myers, Debbie Heimerl, Shikha Mayer, Dan Lincoln, Denis Dooley, Sarah Glazar, Lori Pakrul, Stephen Autenrieth, Joanne Kavanaugh, Jennifer Paragano, Pat Carroll, and Tim Coleman. Not in attendance were Jamie Bertoni, John Bertoni, Bob Baker, and Roni Larini. Also in attendance were Leslie Brown-Witt, Terry Thompson, and Shura Arnold.

President's Remarks

Nancy welcomed everyone back and introduced new member Tim Coleman. We reviewed the calendar and noted some changes - adjust the dates for August and September meetings, they will be held on the first wednesday of those months. It was discussed if we need to change March meeting, as it falls on a Holy day. If enough people would like the date changed, we will move the meeting to the following wednesday, please let Nancy know. The committee assignments were posted, please review and let Nancy know of any changes/corrections. Please ensure your information is correct on the roster. The agenda has a listing of key dates for 2017. If everyone can review the operating manual and advise of any corrections/changes.

Vice President's Remarks

John was absent.

Correspondence

Maria reported the Friends received a Thank You from Nancy for the Edible Arrangement.

Secretary

Minutes from November meetings approved.

Nominating Committee

Shikha reported there is a new person interested in volunteering and will keep them posted for an opening in November. There will be many openings at the end of this term.

Treasurer's Report

Bob was absent. Nancy passed around the updated cash flow. It was noted the Campaign is ahead of where we were same time last year with 183 donors so far. There have been 40 new donors and 21 donations from outside Bernardsville. We are tracking donors to see what worked differently this year.

Library Report

Shura reported the gas-fired pre-heat is working nicely. They are still assessing the actual costs and will need a full year to determine the overall costs savings. Tami hosted a "winter camp" over the school break and had a huge turnout - boxing day had 60 participants and lizard guy had roughly 100 attendees. They would like to make this an annual event during the winter break each year going forward. Shura asked if the Friends would be able to help with some of the programming costs for next year. The Friends will look at the proposal from Tami when the time comes and discuss further.

The Boro Zoning Department and Construction Office moved into the suite downstairs in the Library building. Jeff Price was able to furnish the office and conference room with donated

furniture from a pharmaceutical company. Since the library will not need the money for a conference table, Shura has asked if the Friends would consider purchasing a color copier instead. She will provide us with quotes and meet with Nancy.

#### Finance Committee

Jamie was absent.

#### Fundraising Committee

Bingo will be on Jan 20th - we need volunteers. Pizza was discussed as far as if we want to continue offering pizza at Bingo events. The theme for January is Snow and Ice and there will be door prizes. Sandwich boards will be in place in town to advertise Bingo. March 24th is the next Bingo.

Some fundraising events to be further discussed at the committee meeting are Jewelry Sale (include handbags and scarves), Terracycle (in partnership with library), Touch a Truck, and Fall Event similar to last year without an author. We are expecting a check from Amazon Smile mid-February.

The Campaign will also be further discussed at the committee meeting with some ideas on how to tweak the process. Debbie has agreed to take on campaign acknowledgements.

A letter to the editor was sent to thank all the donors and contributors from 2016 who helped make our various fundraisers a success.

#### Programs

Dan reported there were about 30-40 attendees at the December event. This happened to be a snowy day. The band did enjoy the food and really enjoyed playing for us. Hopefully they can return on a nicer day. It was discussed if we want to continue with a December event, there are a lot of other events going in the month and the weather can be tricky. The next event is on January 29th and will feature Blue Jersey Band - an eclectic mix of swing, jazz, bluegrass, and gypsy jazz.

#### Movie

Pat, Dan and Denis will meet with Madelyn and Ed to review the catalog and make some selections.

#### Public Relations

This committee needs a chair. In the meantime, Nancy will run the committee and there will be a meeting coming up. Question was posed: How do we assess what programs the community wants?

#### Volunteer

Sarah and Lori commented the treat bags (about 35) for the volunteers and cookies for Madrigals was a success. Upcoming in 2017, there will be Volunteer Week, April 24. The planning meeting is scheduled for February 21st.

#### Public Comments

Leslie (Foundation) commented that Ed English was awarded Volunteer of Year by the Borough. The Foundation gave the library \$100,000. They have not found a house yet for Homes of Distinction, if you know of a house, please let them know. If anyone needs a major donor/endowment pledge form they can be found at the circulation desk in the Library. So far they have received some great donations. At the last Foundation meeting, officers were elected, Ed Landis is the new treasurer. The Foundation is now using BaseCamp and has offered for us to use as well. Nancy can talk to Donna about how to use.

Terry (Board of Trustees) commented that the annual budget has been submitted to the Boro and they are asking for an increase in funding. A meeting with the Finance Committee will take place in January for funding. The Board may need to ask our help in petitioning the Boro council for the increase in funding. Support has stayed at a flat rate since 2008 with no increases. The Board has asked for 6.7% increase in funding; it should be noted the Boro gives funds above the state minimum.

New/Old Business

Denis noted books for homebound is still very slow. There has been interest in music cd's. It was agreed this was something the Friends could pursue, so anyone with CDs to donate, please drop off for Denis. Denis offered he could also obtain some at them end of the Rummage sale.

Nancy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.