

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library
September 19, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Steve Autenrieth, Karen Brodsky, Caroline Browne, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Debbie Heimerl, Roni Larini, Janet George Murnick, and Rita Stein. Not present were Mark Aronson, Bob Baker, Georgiana Depew, Megan Hartley, and Shikha Mayer. Also in attendance were Patrice O'Regan Cummings of the Library Board of Trustees, Howard Lemberg of the Library Foundation, and Connie Etergino. John Bertoni, Dan Lincoln, and Nancy Verduin, Friends Board nominees, were also in attendance and introduced by Elizabeth Faulkner.

Public Comments

Patrice Cummings reported that the Foundation has contributed another \$16,000 to the Library. Mayor's designate, John McCrossan, is concerned about two referenda on November's ballot, which may add additional strain on the borough's budget: for recreational field turf, and road repairs. The Board of Trustees acknowledges the Local History Room volunteers for their remarkable exhibit of Fred Pitney Crater's historical photographs. The BoT's treasurer, John La Duc, and its Finance Committee have prepared an initial budget for 2013; it is \$37,000 more than 2012's actual. Howard Lemberg noted the \$33,000 the Foundation gave to the Library in January and the \$16,000 in the beginning of August. He said the Foundation is trying to keep a low profile during the fall, recognizing that the Friends traditionally has its fund drive at this time of year.

Approval of Minutes

Debbie Heimerl moved to approve the July 18, 2012 minutes, and Rita Stein seconded. The motion passed without objection. Doug Doremus abstained.

President's Remarks

Roni Larini reported that in July she received formal resignations from David Mulgrum, Wanda Knapik and Treasurer Polly La Duc. Roni thanked Polly for all of her hard work. Fortunately, Bob Baker has agreed to become Treasurer. In November, Rita will have to step down after two terms, and Georgiana Depew will also leave. With regard to the Bill Moyers event, the invitations have been sent out and Roni gave a big 'thank you' to Sarah Glazar. Roni said she attended this week's PRAT (Public Relations Advisory Team) meeting. Theo Mulgrum and Madelyn English are the co-chairs of this committee established to reach non-Library users. The Ice Cream Social on Monday, August 20, arranged by the Friends for the Library's Summer Reading Program, was a success. Penguin Ice Cream donated the ice cream, and a photograph was in *The Bernardsville News*. The tentative author luncheon with Maryann McFadden has been changed to a Sundays at Three event on November 11. A shortened version of the Fund Drive letter will be in the next Library newsletter. Roni said she will host a social at her home on Friday, November 16 for incoming and outgoing Friends board members. Roni asked Debbie to inform the board about display case arrangements for October. Debbie said Kate Lincoln of the Local History Room has helped with the research. One case will be a timeline and the other will showcase what the Friends fund; 110 years of FUNding. Roni would like the Friends to have their own brochure again; there is a vacant slot for it on the foyer stand.

Correspondence

Rita Stein reported that there was no correspondence.

Vice President's Report

Janet Murnick shared that Bill Moyers' topic will be the Influence of the Media on Democracy. He will also speak about the needs of the Library and requested background information, which Karen Brodsky and John La Duc have provided. The Bookworm will supply Mr. Moyers' books to be sold at the event.

Nominating Committee

Elizabeth Faulkner nominated Bob Baker for the office of Treasurer. Her motion was seconded by Janet. Elizabeth read a banking resolution authorizing Bob to manage accounts for the Friends, etc. Denis Dooley seconded her motion. Both motions passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker was not in attendance.

Library Director's Report

Karen Brodsky said the museum passes continue to be popular. She would like to purchase another batch of passes for the American Museum of Natural History. It costs \$250, requiring additional \$70 from Special Programs. Janet moved to allocate the \$70, and Sarah Glazar seconded. The motion passed unopposed. From her report, Karen discussed new purchases within the budget: *Accessible Archives*, an online American history resource; a wireless printer for patron use (citing patron requests during the October 2011 power outages); and professional development for staff members, for which they are all grateful. This month's new funding request is for a Disc-Go-Devil, a DVD and CD cleaning and repair machine. Doug moved to approve funding its cost of \$1,240 and Steve Autenrieth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Upcoming funding requests will include a matching grant for a Learn-by-Doing Preschool Project, and co-funding for a Maker Space Project.

Committee Reports

Finance – Mark Aronson was not present. Roni said Mark will have a report ready in advance of the October Executive Committee meeting, to be emailed to everyone, and voted on.

Fundraising – Doug Doremus passed out a draft of this year's fund drive letter. He discussed various mailing quantities: from our current small list, or purchasing or renting lists to reach more households in the borough. He asked if board members' names should be added to the letterhead, to which Roni replied 'yes.'

Nominating – Elizabeth Faulkner reported on the search for Board candidates, officers, and committee chairs. The Committee met with four candidates, and she introduced the three who were present: John Bertoni, Dan Lincoln, and Nancy Verduin; Dorothy Carter is the fourth; and gave brief biographies of each. 2013 meeting dates - on first Wednesdays - were also discussed.

Program – Shikha Mayer was not present. Roni said Unity Day has been cancelled. There is a Sundays at Three program on October 21; volunteers will be needed.

Public Relations – Caroline Browne said newspapers have been invited to cover the Bill Moyers event. Flyers for the event will be placed in local establishments.

Volunteer Recognition – Bob Baker was not present.

New Business

Elizabeth shared Denis' editorial in the *Chapter II* September/October 2012 newspaper.

Debbie moved, and Roni seconded, to end the meeting. All were in favor; it adjourned at 8:37 p.m.