

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Bernardsville Public Library
October 16, 2012**

Attendance: John McCrossan was absent and Patrice Cummings arrived at 5:40 pm. Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library; Roni Larini, President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library (“Friends”); and Howard Lemberg, President of the Bernardsville Library Foundation (“Foundation”), Jerry Fischer, Vice-President, Edwin Landis, Secretary; and Leslie Brown-Witt, Kathleen Palmer, and Maud Thiebaud, Trustees of the Foundation, were also present.

President Donald Burset called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: John La Duc moved the minutes of the September meeting as submitted. Terry Thompson seconded the motion, which carried with Peter Miller and Maribeth Southworth abstaining.

Director’s Report: Ms. Brodsky highlighted the following:

- Item 1A, Public Outreach: First, a movie by Ryan Webber targeting teens and young parents will be linked from the teen web page. The movie uses staff members to show how to use the library. Second, posters are being designed by Sandy Noble and Gary Ghezzi (ZZ Design, Morristown) highlighting a different library focus each month. January’s focus will be DVDs. The existing logo is too busy for effective web use, we need a simpler logo.
- Janet Murnick has arranged for two emergency radios for the library.
- Lucy Orfan offered a resolution that the leaking fish tank (without the fish) and the computer hardware listed in Appendix D to the meeting package are no longer needed for public service. Ms. Southworth seconded the resolution, which carried unanimously.
- Ms. Brodsky discussed an offer by artist Victor Martinez to donate some of his paintings to be sold for the library’s benefit. After brief discussion, the consensus was that Ms. Brodsky had the authority to evaluate and decide whether to accept the offer.

Treasurer’s Report and Finance Committee:

Mr. La Duc said that the budget was on track with nothing abnormal showing up, and pointed out the usual back-end loaded items. He noted that the 2012 state aid received had amounted to \$3,429 vs. \$3,552 in 2011, that the auditor’s bill had been received and payment was included in the “New Bills for Approval” and that the preliminary 2013 budget had been submitted to the Borough Administrator and the Borough Finance Committee on Oct. 2, 2012, to the entire Foundation board on Oct. 4, 2012 and to the Friends executive committee also on Oct. 4, 2012. Mr. La Duc also reported that he would be discussing the preliminary budget with the Friends executive committee at their Oct. 17, 2012 meeting. He also noted that the minimum municipal contribution for 2013 was now fixed at about \$808,000, about \$12,000 less than this year. Ms. Thompson moved to pay the new bills received from October 1-16, 2012 and to ratify the

payment of bills received and paid from September 19-30, 2012. Michael Gouldin seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Contingency Planning, Long Range Planning, Personnel, and Policy: Did not meet. Lucy Orfan will set up a Policy Committee meeting on the cell phone use questions; Michael Gouldin will report on LRP at the next meeting and set up a Contingency Planning meeting if needed.

Public Participation:

For the Foundation, Mr. Lemberg reported that the Foundation's next meeting would be November 13 at 7:30 pm and that a decision on the last installment of the 2012 contribution would be made then. He asked why in the draft budget the Board was not asking the Borough for more than a 2% increase. Mr. La Duc responded that this was a judgment matter in light of the overall 2% cap imposed by law on other Borough budget categories. Mrs. Palmer asked who on the Board was lobbying for a Council member to be the Mayor's designee. Mr. Burset said that that was the Mayor's decision, that there was no requirement that his designee be a Council member but that he has been in touch with Mayor Honecker. Mrs. Palmer also asked for information on the library's contingency plans. There was a discussion about whether contingency planning information would in fact be useful to donors or whether its usefulness would be outweighed by the potential damage to staff morale. She also asked if there was an estimate on what we were saving the borough by the library's participation in community emergency response activities. Ms. Brodsky will work on that question. Mr. Fischer asked about possibilities that housing values might increase. Mr. La Duc said that, because of three-year average used to determine the minimum contribution, he thought that it was unlikely that any increases would result in a material improvement in the minimum contribution during the next year or two. Mr. Gouldin commented that he thought the best approach to donors was to ask them to be a part of maintaining the "crown jewel of the town" to keep it forever the crown jewel of the town. Mrs. Palmer mentioned that the borough may have reserves and the library could make a pitch for a share of those.

Mrs. Larini, for the Friends, said that reservations for the Moyers event were coming in and that the total was up to 108 as of the 16th. The Friends are not sending out their fund-raising letter until mid-November this year to make a little break after the Moyers event solicitation. On Wednesday evening, October 17, the library's budget will be presented to the Friends board and the Friends will also consider their budget. There will be a program on November 11 featuring New Jersey author Marianne McFadden, as a program, not a fund-raiser. The Friends' annual meeting will be November 14; the Board of Trustees is invited to have cake with the Friends after the meeting.

Communications: Ms. Brodsky circulated a thank-you note from Andrea Mastrobattista for the Volunteer of the Year award, and one to the Garden Club.

New Business: The Morris-Union Federation advisory council meets on November 8 at 4 pm at the Madison Public Library.

At 6:40 p.m., Mrs. Orfan moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. La Duc and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson, Secretary