

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
Bernardsville Public Library
November 15, 2011**

Attendance: Maribeth Southworth was absent. Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library (BPL); John Deibert, President, Friends of the BPL; Roni Larini, Vice President of the Friends, and Howard Lemberg, Chair, Bernardsville Library Foundation, were also present.

President Donald Burset called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. John McCrossan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Burset read the Open Meeting Notice. Secretary Terry Thompson called the roll. Mr. Burset thanked Mr. Deibert for his service as a board member and President of the Friends, mentioning that in his work with Mr. Deibert, Mr. Deibert had been open, above-board and helpful to the Board of Trustees.

Minutes: John La Duc moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2011, Board meeting with one correction. Patrice Cummings seconded the motion, which carried.

Director’s Report: Ms. Brodsky presented highlights and additions to her written report, as follows:

- Vickie Bosey, in Readers’ Services, has resigned effective December 2, 2011.
- Ms. Brodsky and Pete Miller jointly related how the library has worked with the school district to offer an evening with Jordan Sonnenblick, author of *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*. The book was on the middle school’s summer proposed reading list, but met objections from some parents because of its subject matter, the serious illness (cancer) of the narrator’s sibling. The author was to speak at the school, but will instead speak at the library on the evening of January 4, sponsored by the Municipal Alliance. The Board was enthusiastic about this cooperative effort.
- Ms. Brodsky is looking at a smartphone app for the library, “Mobile App” by Boopsie.
- After further discussion, John La Duc moved the resolution to join the New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting, Appendix E in the Board package. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.
- The Board discussed Chief Valentine’s offer to have library personnel go through the Community Emergency Support Team (CERT) training scheduled for November 16, 2011. Our consensus was that there would be no objection to offering this to staff members (and paying them for their time spent in training) but that there was not time to get the offer out and make the necessary staffing arrangements before the training date. Mr. Miller described the school district’s contacts from the Red Cross. The Board was very appreciative of the efforts of the library staff during the “Hallowe’en Horror” snowstorm. Ms. Brodsky will follow up with Chief Valentine.

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. La Duc commented that it looks as if the library will have about \$5,000 to \$10,000 at the end of 2011 to add to the 2012 budget. Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from November 1-15, 2011 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from October 19-31, 2011. Mike Gouldin seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Finance: reported as part of the Treasurer’s report.

Personnel: Ms. Thompson asked the Personnel Committee to meet at 10 am on Friday, November 18, in Mr. Miller’s office, without Ms. Brodsky.

Policy: Lucy Orfan presented the recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting held on October 27.

The changes to the Personnel Manual are required by changes in state law. Mrs. Orfan moved those changes, seconded by Mr. Gouldin and carried unanimously. Mr. Gouldin pointed out that the draft should be corrected to "Retirement Plan". Mrs. Orfan then presented and moved the proposed changes to the Volunteer Policy, to clarify that volunteers are included in the email, voice mail, internet services and computer systems policies that apply to the staff, and to insert that volunteers for the Foundation are working for the Foundation, not the library, after a similar statement about the Friends. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Long-Range Planning: Mr. Gouldin said that the second workshop on long-range planning would take place on December 1, and that he and Ms. Brodsky would present their draft to the LRP committee in December.

Communications: Mr. Buset circulated a letter thanking the Garden Club for all it does for the library, one thanking Jeff Bosey for coffee for the volunteers, and a copy of the presentation provided to the Bernardsville Borough Council on November 14 (and subsequently to the Bernardsville News) by Mr. La Duc.

Unfinished Business: Mr. La Duc and Mrs. Orfan are still working on the fact sheet to explain the Board's recommendation on the county solar panel project.

New Business: Mr. Buset appointed Ms. Southworth and Mr. Miller to the Nominating Committee. Mr. La Duc moved to end the practice of not charging fines to volunteers, including members of the Board, the Friends or the Foundation.

Public Presentations: Mr. Deibert said that the Friends had raised about \$15,000 in the current fund drive, with a month to go, and was making progress on the MOU. Mr. Lemberg said that the Foundation was considering its fund raising plans for the spring.

Executive Session: At 6:50 pm, Ms. Thompson moved to go into executive session to discuss a personnel question; Mr. La Duc seconded the motion, which carried. The meeting returned to public session at 7:03 pm.

Mr. McCrossan mentioned that the Borough Council had received a presentation about a legal aid subscription service for borough employees; Ms. Brodsky will see if there is any interest among library employees. Mr. Buset expressed his surprise that the Friends and Foundation had not included anyone from the Board in their discussions of the MOU, but was pleased that some progress was occurring. There being no further business, at 7:15 Ms. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Orfan seconded the motion, which carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson. Secretary