

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
February 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, Elizabeth Faulkner, Roni Larini, Dan Lincoln, Janet George Murnick, Maria Myers, and Nancy Verduin. Not in attendance were John Bertoni, Caroline Browne, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Sarah Glazar, Deborah Heimerl, Shikha Mayer, and Laurie Och. Also in attendance were April Judge, Patrice O'Regan Cummings, and Joan Contess (of the Foundation).

President's Remarks and Notifications

Roni Larini distributed the list of 2015 committee assignments. The storage clean out will take place in spring, when everything warms up. Updates to our By-Laws will be incorporated by Debbie Heimerl, who is currently recovering from knee surgery. The junior awards will be moved to our June meeting, instead of May 6, which happens to be during testing week. The Library's maker day will be March 21 and Roni wondered whether the Friends should provide water and snacks that day. Everyone received a Flipster bookmark. Flipster is the digital magazine distribution service the Friends paid for. April Judge will add "Funded by Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library" when the next batch of bookmarks is printed. Roni said she will be getting a new hip next week. Nancy Verduin will fill in for her at the next Friends and BoT meetings.

Approval of Minutes

Janet Murnick moved to accept the January meeting minutes and Maria Myers seconded. The motion passed with two abstentions by Dan Lincoln and Nancy.

Vice President's Report

Nancy Verduin attended the recent Foundation meeting, where the next Home of Distinction, set for April 12 at Little Brook Farm, was discussed. The Foundation is interested in starting a post-Labor Day clambake tradition with the three library boards. The BLF is considering hiring a consultant to train the board members in fundraising, in order to build its endowment.

Public Comments-Foundation

Joan Contess shared some of the history of Little Brook Farm, and described its bucolic landscape and lovely outdoor spaces. Inside there is a collection of Stickley furniture. Barry Thomson is involved in the planning. This home can accommodate 250 guests. The tickets will be \$100 and \$150. Board members may seek sponsors for the event. The Friends board members received "Proud Supporter Bernardsville Public Library" magnets from the Foundation.

Correspondence

Maria Myers sent a get well card to Debbie.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker shared January's highlights: we raised \$4,150; we donated \$5k to the library for programs; we are expecting \$3-\$4K in matching funds over the next two months; the audit company cashed our check for \$1,350 from September; Bernardsville Print Center's bill has been received; investments went sideways. Since September we have received \$39K+. Off to a good start and in good shape. Bob continued with the issue of credit card fees. GiveForward and RevTrack were suggested as alternatives with lower costs. Dan Lincoln made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Nancy seconded. It passed unanimously.

Library Director's Report

April Judge went to the Foundation meeting to request funds for 2015. It pledged \$70K of the \$100K requested. With regard to the space repurposing project, the Borough Council was receptive to and positive about her request about its plans for the lower level (of the library building). She will offer three times to show the members the ideas for both floors. The library building's 15th anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, February 28 with cake and punch. The first One Book Bernardsville committee meeting will be held February 18.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach - Debbie Heimerl was not present.

Finance - Doug Doremus was not present.

Fundraising - Janet George Murnick said the committee will meet to discuss smaller events. She is looking for ideas, for speakers or otherwise. Nancy distributed some sheets about bingo. She has spoken with a man at the gaming commission, who sent a list of approved bingo equipment vendors. She briefly described what is needed. Roni asked that bingo be discussed further at the next Fundraising committee meeting.

Nominating - John Bertoni was not present. Roni said she gave him four names.

Program - Shikha Mayer was not present. Dan Lincoln said the next Sundays at Three program is on February 22.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne was not present.

Volunteer Recognition - Sarah Glazar was not present.

Public Comments-Board of Trustees

Patrice Cummings said the BoT held elections. Remaining are Terry Thompson as President, Patrice as VP, and Mark Krook as Treasurer. Skip Orza is the new Recording Secretary. The BoT missed its retreat in January due to snow, and is trying to reschedule it. They will discuss an updated strategic plan, space repurposing, and the possibility of joining a library consortium. April is creating a spreadsheet of the pros and cons. Patrice repeated her thanks to the Friends and the Foundation. If not for both, the library would not be a five-star library.

New Business

Elizabeth pointed out that the current art exhibit in the Community Room is by Philip Kennedy-Grant. He also has work in the display cases.

Elizabeth moved to end the meeting and Janet seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary