

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
April 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Deborah Heimerl, Roni Larini, Dan Lincoln, Janet George Murnick, Laurie Och, and Nancy Verduin. Not in attendance were John Bertoni, Caroline Browne, Shikha Mayer, and Maria Myers. Also in attendance were April Judge, Patrice O'Regan Cummings, and Leslie Brown Witt.

President's Remarks and Notifications

Roni Larini noted that the Library's recent Maker Day was a success. She thanked Nancy, Dan and Sarah for refreshments and assistance. The Friends storage clean-out, to be led by Dan, will take place in May. There is a chance we can have some storage space in the library building's basement. The By-Laws changes will take place next month. Our May 6 meeting will begin at 7:30. June 6 will start at 7:00 for the Youth Awards program.

Approval of Minutes

April Judge corrected a sentence under her report to read: "The committee has selected the book *Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken*, in conjunction with the Morristown Festival of Books One Community, One Book Committee." Dan Lincoln reworded a sentence under the Fundraising report, regarding the bingo form, to read "(Several Board members signed and Denis Dooley notarized it after the meeting.)" With these modifications, Elizabeth moved to accept the March meeting minutes and Nancy Verduin seconded. The motion passed with three abstentions (Doug Doremus, Debbie Heimerl, and Roni Larini).

Elizabeth also reported on the Foundation meeting of March 11, when its Homes of Distinction event plans were discussed.

Vice President's Report

Nancy Verduin explained that the junior awards will have graduated levels of awards for 4th graders on up. Children who reach the first level will receive a certificate, and those who achieve the second level will receive a certificate and a gift certificate. Also under consideration is recognizing young volunteers who assist with the summer program.

Correspondence

Maria Myers was not present.

Treasurer's Report

As the meeting fell on the first day of the month, Bob Baker did not have a formal report. He will give one in June. The past month has been the slowest; there were no donations. However, we received \$2,600 in matching gifts, and he paid \$2,900 to the Library for programs. The stock market has been flat.

Library Director's Report

April Judge reported that more than 150 people attended Maker Day. She thanked Dan, Nancy, and Sarah for providing refreshments that so people could get recharged. It will become a yearly event in association with the NJLA. The Library received Borough approval to use approximately 1,000 square feet of space in the basement. However, there is no direct access from the Library. There was a half day of staff development on internal communications the previous week. Staying open until 6:00 p.m. on Fridays has proved to be popular with patrons. Staff will be reviewing strategic plans.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach - Debbie Heimerl met with Eva Bostek-Brady, her counterpart on the Foundation board, Roni and Leslie Brown Witt. They plan to attend back-to-school nights, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary meetings. The next step is creating a joint brochure. The Bedwell newcomers' breakfast in August is also targeted.

Finance - Doug Doremus noted that last year the Newsletter line item ran over budget by \$150 and suggested moving \$500 from media. Debbie suggested switching line items. The search for a credit card processing company with lower costs continues after the Board of Education's company turned us down. It only deals with educational institutions.

Fundraising - Janet George Murnick is working on two initiatives for the fall: a book & author luncheon and a beer tasting event. She reported on initial information from Pluckemin Inn, Jockey Hollow Kitchen & Bar, and 90 Acres. Nancy Verduin cheerfully exclaimed that the Friends have a bingo license. She has ordered the official equipment and has made flyers.

Nominating - John Bertoni was not present.

Program - Shikha Mayer was not present. Dan Lincoln reported that Rhonda Denet will perform a Motown program on Sunday, May 3. For the June 5 Seniors' Breakfast, Grover Kemble will perform his Jimmy Durante program. On October 11, we are trying to get Maggie Worsdale for her Sinatra performance.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne was not present. Roni said new brochures are in the works.

Volunteer Recognition - Sarah Glazar said the Volunteer Luncheon is set for Monday, May 18 from 11:30-2:00 in the Library's Community Room. The venue is new but the luncheon will be similar. She wants to improve the tracking of costs, have door prizes, name tags with years of service noted, a gift basket raffle, a 250-word essay competition ("What does volunteering at BPL mean to you?"), with winning essay to appear in the *Bernardsville News*. Laurie, Janet, Elizabeth and Sarah will form the essay review committee. On Tuesday of the week, spring goodie bags will be provided.

Public Comments

Patrice Cummings reiterated that the Library has been given use of 1,000 sf in the basement. What is required to make it ready has yet to be determined. Changing the Library's heating system is also being discussed by the BoT. Both of these considerations tie into the space repurposing project. Leslie Brown Witt said the Foundation is getting ready for this year's Homes of Distinction event at Little Brook Farm on April 12. They are hoping to have up to 220, possibly 250, people. For attendees they have created a signature drink and there will be a silent auction. Its yearly appeal letter will be sent after the event, and then the focus will be on its major donor initiative.

Debbie moved and Nancy seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary