

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
June 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, John Bertoni, Caroline Browne, Dorothy Carter, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Deborah Heimerl, Roni Larini, Dan Lincoln, Shikha Mayer, Janet George Murnick, Maria Myers, and Nancy Verduin. Not in attendance were Megan Hartley and Laurie Och. Also in attendance were Pat Kennedy-Grant of the Library and Patrice O'Regan Cummings of the Library Board of Trustees.

President's Remarks and Notifications

Roni Larini recognized two board members for their volunteer efforts with other groups: Denis Dooley for the VNA Rummage sale and Bob Baker for Mansion in May. She created the External Relations Chair to reach out to other groups in the community, such as the Borough Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the HSAs of the three local schools. Debbie Heimerl has agreed to take this position, and with Roni, will write the position's duties. She gave huge thanks to Sarah Glazar for organizing, and Shikha Mayer for hosting, the Volunteer Luncheon on May 16. Roni reported that Foundation President Leslie Brown-Witt approached her about pursuing joint activities, such as a clambake. At this point, June is too soon, and in September the Friends will be too busy.

Vice President's Report

Megan Hartley was not present. Roni shared that Megan had attended the Foundation board meeting on Monday; the group has donated \$30K to the Library so far this year.

Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Faulkner moved to accept the May 7, 2014 meeting minutes. Sarah seconded and they were approved. The following board members abstained: Bob Baker, John Bertoni, Doug Doremus, Debbie Heimerl, Dan Lincoln, Maria Myers, and Nancy Verduin.

Correspondence

Nancy Verduin read aloud the lovely thank you card sent by Fran and Jerry Fischer for the Volunteer Luncheon.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker distributed summaries dated April 10 and May 10. He reported that donations from September to now have totaled \$35,400 plus \$4,900 in matching gifts. \$40K is above the previous year. The Friends have budgeted \$45K for the Library; to date a little more than \$13K have been spent. The Friends accountant will prepare a 10-page IRS non-profit report, instead of a post card, because we made more than \$50K in 2013. Dan Lincoln moved and Nancy seconded to accept the financial reports; the board voted unanimously in favor.

Library Report

Pat Kennedy-Grant filled in for Library Director April Judge, who was at the New Jersey Library Convention. She thanked the Friends for the Volunteer Luncheon. The Parsons Patio is complete except for benches and sculptures. A Bernardsville Garden Club donation will pay for landscaping from the patio toward Anderson Road. There will be a dedication ceremony the Saturday after Labor Day.

Committee Reports

Finance - Doug Doremus distributed his Fiscal Year 2014 Revenue and Expenses report. There was discussion whether or not the investment portfolio needs to be reviewed. Bob and John Bertoni felt it is currently well diversified and balanced.

Fundraising - Janet George Murnick/Debbie Heimerl. Janet reported that the committee has been fine-tuning the two booked events: the author luncheon on September 30 and the tea on November 22. A beer tasting/pairing event is still in the works for a Thursday evening in October. Debbie has investigated one venue, but currently the cost is too high. A bingo event remains on hold until final approval is received. Discussion ensued about various permissions and approvals - from the Board of Trustees and Borough Council - required for serving alcohol and gambling (bingo) in the Library building. Committee member Steve Autenrieth said he has contacted several tea companies for a possible speaker at the tea event in November. He is waiting for some more replies. Discussion ensued about Starbucks' purchase of Teavana, and that the local Starbucks has been helpful to the Library. Discussion about the best ways to promote the events followed. Ideas included a save-the-date post card, bookmarks, flyers, posters, Library website, information screen behind the circulation desk, and email blast by Madelyn English.

Nominating - John Bertoni had nothing to report at this time.

Program - Shikha Mayer passed around the sign-up sheet indicating the supplies and food items board members have agreed to provide for Seniors' Day on Friday, June 6. She will meet with the committee to set up the fall programs.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne has submitted the Friends column for the July-August newsletter. The Summer Reading Club Ice Cream Social scheduled for Thursday, August 21 requires a couple of volunteers. Once again, Penguin Ice Cream will donate the ice cream.

Volunteer Recognition - Sarah Glazar thanked Shikha for hosting the Friends Volunteer Luncheon. While 45 people attended, the majority were board members of the Friends, Foundation, and Board of Trustees. There were only 10 or 11 "real" volunteers. She asked, "What can we do to increase attendance?" Pat Kennedy-Grant said that Friday has the lowest number of staff working, and many of the new hires do not live in town. Bob suggested trying a Monday. Other ideas included a written invitation, change the time of day, holding it at the Library.

Public Comments

Patrice Cummings thanked Shikha, Sarah, and the Friends for the Volunteer Luncheon. The Parsons Patio dedication will be on Saturday, September 6. She publicly thanked the Foundation for donating \$30K. Rich Diegnan is a new Board of Trustees member; half of the board is new.

New Business

Roni created an Ad Hoc committee to review the junior volunteer awards. Nancy will chair; Felicia Ballard of the Library's Youth Services will be on it; and Elizabeth has agreed to serve.

Elizabeth moved, and Debbie seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary