

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.  
August 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, Caroline Browne, Denis Dooley, Elizabeth Faulkner, Katherine Harris, Deborah Heimerl, Roni Larini, Dan Lincoln, and Janet George Murnick. Not in attendance were John Bertoni, Doug Doremus, Sarah Glazar, Maria Myers, Laurie Och, Shikha Mayer, and Nancy Verduin. Also in attendance were April Judge, Terry Thompson, and Leslie Brown-Witt.

President's Remarks and Notifications

Roni Larini thanked Bob Baker and Dan Lincoln for their work on July 15 in the storage area of the Library's basement. They threw out a lot and sorted the remaining boxes on the shelves.

Approval of Minutes

One phrase was added to the report made by Madelyn English at last month's meeting. The July 1, 2015 minutes were approved.

Vice President's Report

Nancy Verduin was not present. Elizabeth Faulkner attended the Foundation meeting the previous evening. Its board approved a gift of \$45K to the Library.

Correspondence

Maria Myers was not present. Roni read a note from Fran Fischer thanking the Friends for the Volunteer Luncheon. Roni reminded us that Fran was presented with flowers at the luncheon in recognition of her fifty years of service to the Library.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker noted that our net assets have not changed much. The Friends gave \$3,496 to the Library for programs and media. Donations in July totaled \$1,600 plus \$75 in matching funds. We received \$207 (half of \$414) back from the storage facility. In the eleven months of the current fund drive year, we have received \$41,630 from 257 unique donors. We have received \$5,070 in matching funds from 17 companies. Bob noted that we promised the Library \$45K this calendar year. The 990 IRS report was filed today. (The EZ form is 20 pages!) It will be posted on the library's website. The NJLA Friends Institute will have a Friends Workshop on November 14, 9:30-3:00, at the East Brunswick Library. Bob, Roni, Nancy, and Leslie would like to attend. Bob made a motion to become a member of the NJLA for \$75; Roni seconded. The motion passed unopposed. Roni moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Elizabeth seconded. It passed unanimously.

Library Director's Report

April Judge said the staff has been busy boxing up extras to place in the basement storage, where Felipe has been building shelving. The Library has completed its move to FiOS. The second phase will be to improve WiFi connection. The Summer Reading Program was a grand success. There were 384 regular readers. The Traveling Tales – story times in various businesses in the borough – were very popular. April thanked the Foundation for the \$45K gift to the Library. Dina Meky has been hired as Information & Borrowers' Services Assistant Manager. The Library did not receive the grant from the NJ Council for the Humanities. (Terry Thompson commented that the work and thinking that went into the proposal was admirable.) Instead, immigration will be incorporated into the One Book presentation. The Library will have a low-key library card sign-up month in September. Library staff and volunteers will work shifts at various locations – Kings, Shop Rite, Kings, etc. – to sign up new Library members. She needs a few more volunteers on the schedule.

## Committee Reports

Community Outreach - Debbie Heimerl said she and Eva Bostek-Brady of the Foundation will be at the Bedwell and Bernardsville Middle School Back-to-School nights. April mentioned that they can share the Library's table at these events. They also plan to attend a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Finance - Doug Doremus was not present.

Fundraising - Janet George Murnick reported on two, possibly three, fall events. Tuesday, September 29 is the author luncheon with Mary Norris at Hamilton Farms. There was discussion as to the number of books to order, the prepayment of books (\$100 for lunch and a book; or \$75 for just lunch), and the author's transportation. Sunday, October 18 will be the beer tasting event at Vine Restaurant, 5-7 p.m. A NJ brewery will provide the beers. Hors d'oeuvres will be selected to complement each beer. The cost is \$100/person, with the Friends netting \$50 per person. Bingo is being considered for November.

Nominating - John Bertoni was not present. Elizabeth made a motion nominating Katherine Harris to become a Friends board member in the Class of 2017. Janet seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Program - Shikha Mayer was not present. Dan Lincoln shared that Shikha thanks everyone for the help at the Seniors' Breakfast and Jimmy Durante show. The October 11 Sinatra program by Maggie Worsdale is a tie-in with One Book Bernardsville. Soul jazz music by Michaela Glynn and her band is under consideration for December 13. A few holiday tunes will be included.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne has enough volunteers for the August 20 Ice Cream Social and noted that Friendly's will donate the ice cream. She will write a follow-up article thanking them.

Volunteer Recognition - Sarah Glazar was not present. Roni said April 11, 2016 is proposed for the Volunteer Luncheon.

## Public Comments

Terry Thompson said she and Patrice (Cummings) are grateful for the open discussion at the previous Friends meeting. By having the repurposing plan presentation in the library foyer for an additional two weeks, they were able to collect over 130 separate comments. The BoT will get renderings of the proposed adult fiction area. Some BoT members will visit libraries where the designer under consideration has worked. The building's heating conversion will take place before winter; it's in this year's capital expenses.

Leslie Brown-Witt reported the Foundation has two prospective locations for its 2016 Homes of Distinction fundraiser. In order to move ahead with plans for its major donor capital campaign (\$10K and up), and signing with Ruotolo as advisors, the Foundation needs 20-25 names. Leslie appealed to everyone at the meeting to think of some people to suggest.

## New Business

The board members agreed to set the first Wednesday of the month as its meeting day in 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Faulkner  
Recording Secretary