

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bernardsville Public Library  
January 21, 2020**

**Attendance:** John Bertoni, Patrice Cummings, Gretchen Dempsey, Rich Diegnan, Jeff Hammond, Mark Krook, Lucy Orfan, Skip Orza (by telephone), and Terry Thompson were present. Alexandria Arnold, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, Leslie Brown-Witt, President of the Bernardsville Library Foundation, and Nancy Verduin, President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Library, were also present.

President Terry Thompson called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice, followed by the roll call.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** Lucy Orfan presented the Nominating Committee report on a proposed slate of officers for 2020, as follows:

President:	John Bertoni
Vice President:	Patrice Cummings
Treasurer:	Mark Krook
Secretary	Terry Thompson

Mrs. Orfan asked for nominations from the floor, and, there being none, moved the slate be elected as presented. The motion carried. Mr. Bertoni presided at the remainder of the meeting. He said that he would make no committee appointments at this meeting but would be in touch with board members during the coming month about committee assignments.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected.

**Director’s Report:** In addition to her written report, Ms. Arnold reported that the roof project has begun and that our handyman had managed to re-cover 23 chair seats for a total expense of \$140 in materials. She also mentioned that Doug Walker, after consulting with Trane, has recommended that we run the air conditioning on summer evenings after the library has closed, to reduce condensation and humidity. After discussion, it was decided to raise this in budget talks and add to the electricity budget.

**Treasurer’s Report and Bills:** Mr. Krook presented the Treasurer’s Report and bills, noting that we are favorable for the year, so much so that we have told the Foundation that we do not need the full \$25,000 final installment, that \$20,000 will see us through, and please add the additional \$5,000 to the endowment. Mr. Krook moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from January 1-21, 2020 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from December 18-31, Patrice Cummings seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Committee Reports:** no committees met since the last meeting.

**Public Participation:**

**Friends:** Nancy Verduin reported that the Friends are finalizing the details for the mini-golf event. They have all 18 holes sponsored, 30 baskets, and good food for adult night. Hopefully no snow that day!

**Foundation:** Leslie Brown-Witt reported on her new board and new members, and that their fund-raising letter had brought in well more than had been budgeted, at \$72,417. The wine and beer event netted \$10,800. The board approved the final installment of \$20,000 to the library (they did not have a quorum in December so the approval was postponed).

**Communications:** none.

**Unfinished Business:** The construction grant application is taking more of Ms. Arnold's time and some aspects are beyond her expertise. Ms. Thompson asked for suggestions from borough personnel, who said that this needed an architect after all. Ms. Arnold is talking with Dan Lincoln.

Ms. Thompson raised a question about including joining the Somerset County Library in our evaluation of a possible consortium, and suggested that in light of the tight schedule for completing the construction grant application, we postpone those discussions until the May meeting.. The Board concurred.

**New Business:** Ms. Thompson moved to reauthorize Ms. Arnold as the library's purchasing agent, to approve the appointments of Nisivoccia as the library's auditor and Peapack-Gladstone Bank as its bank, and to approve the no-bid contract for Dublin Maintenance Contractors. Mr. Krook seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote. .

At 6:08 pm the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson, Secretary