

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bernardsville Public Library  
February 18, 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 and Leslie Brown-Witt, President of the Bernardsville Library Foundation were also present.

President John Bertoni 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.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January, 2020 meeting were approved as corrected.

**Director’s Report:** In addition to her written report, Ms. Arnold reported that the roof project has begun, but that the contractor will need 5 consecutive days of 45° weather to do the main work. She commended our handyman for his additional work, and reported on a gift from the VFW.

**Treasurer’s Report and Bills:** Mr. Krook presented the Treasurer’s Report and bills, noting that we have only a preliminary budget and that the Foundation check for \$20,000, which arrived in January, was actually for the last installment of 2019 (the Foundation did not have a quorum at its December meeting so could not approve the payment). It needs to be designated as a 2019 carryover with an appropriate explanation. Dr. Hammond noted that the Borough Finance Committee may ask about the \$5,000 return to the Foundation. Mr. Krook moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from February 1 to 18, 2020 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from January 22-31, 2020. Patrice Cummings seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

**Public Participation:**

**Foundation:** Leslie Brown-Witt reported that the Foundation exceeded its budgeted fundraising by \$1200 in 2019. The endowment, including pledges, stands at \$479,700.

**Friends:** Mrs. Cummings reported, for Nancy Verduin, that the golf event was a great success and that the Friends may have a new vice-president shortly.

**Communications:** none.

**Unfinished Business:** The committee assignments are completed and available.

**New Business:** Mr. Bertoni explained that we need to hire an architect, Dan Lincoln, to help with the grant submission. He moved to approve a contract with Mr. Lincoln for up to \$6,000. Mrs. Dempsey seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried by roll call vote, with 8 affirmative votes and one negative vote. Ms. Thompson said she had been approached by a Foundation board member with concerns about building security when the doors are handicap-accessible. Ms. Arnold will send the current security plan to Dr. Hammond, and discuss the issue with Chief Valentine. Ms. Thompson moved that we ask the Borough to resolve to pay the matching funds, as required for the grant application. Mr. Diegnan seconded the motion, which carried.

At 6:30 pm the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson, Secretary