

**Minutes of the Regular Library Board of Trustees Meeting by Zoom
July 21, 2020**

Attendance: Board members John Bertoni, Patrice Cummings, Rich Diegnan, Jeff Hammond, Mark Krook, Lucy Orfan, Skip Orza, and Terry Thompson were present at the meeting. Alexandria Arnold, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, Nancy Verduin, President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, and library staff members Laura Cole, Madelyn English, and Tammy Shaw were also present.

President John Bertoni called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice, followed by the roll call.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

Director’s Report: On Monday, July 20, the first day of reopening to the public, there were 51 phone calls, 7 emails, a total of 149 patrons, and 222 checkouts. On Tuesday, July 21, there were 17 calls, 4 emails, a total of 144 patrons and 211 checkouts.

The library has lost one full-time staff member, and will be losing two others, Sarah Gillis, who has accepted another job, and Madelyn English, who will retire at the end of September. In addition, seven of thirteen part-time staff members have not returned, for various reasons, including the library’s abbreviated opening schedule. The library has been rearranged to promote social distancing, and in response to the most widespread staff concern, the children’s bathroom has been converted into a staff bathroom for the present. The staff does not expect the capacity limits to have an impact until after school starts.

With respect to the consortium question, the librarian, staff and the Planning Committee will meet to prepare recommendations for the October meeting, which will include an evaluation of the county library proposal. The pandemic has made working as a standalone library more difficult.

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Krook noted that spending in the last month had been just about as projected to the borough. He moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from July 1 to July 21, 2020 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from June 17 to June 30, 2020. Mr. Diegnan seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports: Finance: Mr. Krook reported that the Borough had adopted a library budget of \$891,782.60. the amount reflected in the proposed budget, without changes. The reduction essentially corresponds to the savings the library has achieved by the closure in April and May and the postponement of the community room rework to 2021.

Personnel: No meeting.

Policy: No meeting.

Planning: No meeting, but will meet as requested to discuss consortium before the October board meeting.

Public Participation:

Nancy Verduin, for the Friends, reported that the Friends had a virtual meeting in June and are pursuing a drive-in concert in the parking lot in October, working with the Chief of Police and the Zoning Official. Mini-golf is on hold for now.

Ms. Thompson reported for Leslie Brown-Witt, for the Foundation, that it is still hoping to hold its beer and wine tasting in October.

Communications: Ms. Arnold said that publicity about reopening curbside service had been posted and placed in the Bubble and the Bernardsville News.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: There was a brief discussion of a proposed change to the parking ordinance for the library lot, to accommodate the Borough Recreation staff and visitors after the Recreation Department moves to the lower level. Ms. Thompson offered to contact Geoff Price and Doug Walker for more information.

At 6.29 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry A. Thompson, Secretary