Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bernardsville Public Library  
July 20, 2010

**Attendance:** Maribeth Southworth was absent. John Deibert, President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library (“Friends”) and Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, were also present.

Stephanie Wallace called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice.

**Public Participation:** John Deibert said that the Friends will meet Wednesday, July 21, and are working on their budget for 2011, to be presented in September, and that their fundraising article will be in the September-October library bulletin. They will send personal letters to former donors.

**Minutes:** The June minutes were approved as submitted, moved by Jim Kellett and seconded by Patrice Cummings. Peter Miller abstained.

**Director’s Report:** Ms. Brodsky presented highlights and additions to her written report, as follows:

- She called attention to the circulation change analysis (Appendix A-2) and complimented the staff on their thoughtful input.
- The Volunteers of the Year will be recognized on Sunday, September 12 at 2 pm.
- Ms. Brodsky and Madelyn English made a presentation this morning to the Chamber of Commerce, which was wildly successful, with offers of workshops and fundraising help.
- Ms. Brodsky discussed the CARE program, also in the Board packet, and the Mângo on-line language training materials, both for foreign languages, and ESL for speakers of 16 languages.
- She mentioned the fence, not on library property, at the Church Street entrance to the parking lot.
- Ms. Brodsky expressed her concerns over the recently adopted legislation that would restrict the amount of non-capital reserves a library could keep from year to year to 20%. Terry Thompson will read the legislation, review it with Ms. Brodsky, and report at the next meeting; if deemed necessary then we will consult Jack Pidgeon.
- Ms. Brodsky asked the policy committee to revisit the Patron printing policy.
- Ms. Brodsky reported on the meeting of the Borough IT committee, which she attends. She offered the library’s facilities and assistance for computer training for borough employees. She also expressed her concerns about a discussion of security cameras for the library parking lot. Mr. McCrossan offered to keep the board informed on where this issue goes at the Council, so that we can discuss and provide input if and when appropriate.
- Ms. Brodsky and the grant writer have concluded that joint grant projects with the school district will not provide enough help to make them worthwhile.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jim Kellett presented the Treasurer’s report. Terry Thompson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from July 1-20, 2010, and to ratify
the payment of bills received and paid from June 16-30, 2010. Patrice Cummings seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Finance: The committee did not meet; however, Mr. Kellett announced his intention to resign from the Board at the end of the year, in order to devote full time to his music. The Board was very sorry, but grateful to have had two additional years of his membership since he first considered spending more time on his music. Mrs. Wallace circulated copies of the Borough’s Skills Bank form, and asked that Board members provide this to persons they wished to recommend as candidates.

Personnel: met and decided not to recommend a cafeteria benefits plan, as costing more than it would be worth.

Policy: has not met.

Long-Range Planning: met last Friday to review the results of last month’s brainstorming on fundraising and possible savings to meet the potential budget gap for 2011. Mr. Burset reported briefly on the meeting, and said the committee would meet again shortly. Ms. Thompson offered a resolution, which was amended by Mr. McCrossan to state: “Resolved, that the library Board develop a plan by year-end to address the potential budget shortfall for 2011, either by fund-raising, reduction of costs, or both.” Ms. Thompson accepted Mr. McCrossan’s amendment; Mr. McCrossan seconded the resolution, which carried unanimously. Ms. Thompson then suggested that we set a tentative date for a meeting with the Friends to brainstorm further; she suggested September 8, which falls before both the September Friends meeting and the September Board meeting, so that both groups could discuss the brainstorming session at their meetings. Mr. Deibert suggested that the meeting not involve the entire board of both organizations, but a smaller group, saying that brainstorming worked better with a smaller group. Both Mr. Deibert and Mr. Burset tentatively accepted the suggested date, subject to later confirmation.

Communications: Mr. Burset and Ms. Brodsky have received thank you letters from Senator Bateman.

Old Business: nothing on the solar heating.

New Business: none.

There being no further business, at 6:48 Ms. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Burset seconded the motion, which carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson
Secretary