

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
of the Bernards Township Library  
May 26, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Kippy Piedici called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**2. SUNSHINE LAW REMINDER**

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law of 1975, notice of the meeting was posted on the inside of both doors of the Bernards Township Public Library, was filed with the Township Clerk, and was posted on both the Library's website and the Township's website.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Jack Brull, Lew Cohen, Emily Johnston, Karen Kogut, Andrew McNally, MaryJane McNally, Vivian Pagoulatos, Kippy Piedici, and Doug Roberts

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Lyn Begraft

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was public comment regarding completion of the Internet Service Survey being conducted by the Township's Utility Advisory Task Force.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION 21-26** was made by Karen Kogut and seconded by Vivian Pagoultos to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting as written. With Andrew McNally abstaining, the motion passed unanimously.

**7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Kippy introduced Andrew McNally, the new Township Committee liaison who will be completing Joe Esposito's term on the Board.
- The State Library has determined that the \$3.9 million allotment it received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is being allocated to support literacy programs with an emphasis on underserved areas.
- Kippy encouraged Board members to attend "Library Board Basics: What Does It Mean to Be a Library Trustee," a training opportunity being offered by MAIN/NJLTA Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Attendance at this event counts toward the Board's annual training requirement.

**8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Lyn thanked the Board for its support during the past year.
- All documents necessary to support the Library's New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act Grant application have been compiled and organized. After a final review, the application will be ready to submit early next week.

- Lyn described recent executive orders regarding mask wearing mandates. The Board agreed that it will be guided by Health Department advice and follow the Township's lead.

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance and Treasurer's Report—Vivian Pagoulatos
  - Vivian presented the budget report. The new Excel format is easier to read and shows Township chargebacks.
  - 37% of the year has passed and the Library is on target with spending.
  - The Finance Committee will meet June 10, 2021 to allocate the 2019 rollover to the reserve account.
- B. Friends of the Library Liaison—Emily Johnston
 

Emily attended the Friends' meeting May 10, 2021.

  - The Friends are planning their Annual Fund Drive.
  - The group is supportive of offering gift cards to local businesses to encourage completion of the Library's strategic plan survey.
  - The Friends have a new President, Judy King.
- C. Land and Building—Jack Brull
  - Jack suggested that he and Lyn should schedule a meeting with Pat Monaco to establish a timeline to address the recurring leaks and fascia repair.
  - The upper parking lot will be closed Tuesday, June 1, 2021 and Wednesday, June 2, 2021 to allow for repairs to the storm drain and driveway apron.
- D. Legislation & Advocacy—MaryJane McNally
 

MaryJane encouraged Board members to contact their legislators asking them to support two library funding bills: S3587/A5462 – Per Capita State Aid Bill and S3473/A3173 – Library Network Aid Bill.
- E. Personnel—Mary Jane McNally
 

**MOTION 21-27** was made by Lew Cohen and seconded by Emily Johnston to acknowledge the personnel appointment of Rachel Talbert, Senior Librarian – Teen Services. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION 21-28** was made by Emily Johnston and seconded by Karen Kogut to acknowledge the hiring of Lourdes Cornejo-Krohn, part-time Library Assistant, Adult Circulation. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Strategic Plan—Vivian Pagoulatos, Jack Brull
 

Vivian reported that the committee anticipates having the market survey completed by the Fall. The Friends are willing to assist by underwriting incentive gift cards. The demographic section of the strategic plan has been completed with information used to complete the grant application.
- G. Technology—Karen Kogut
 

Karen reported that she met with Lyn and Karen A. They compiled a list of technology-related successes and completed the technology executive summary for the strategic plan. The Technology Committee is investigating the possibility of offering passport services at the Library.
- H. Township Committee Liaison—Andrew McNally
 

Andrew expressed his eagerness to serve on the Board and his appreciation of the Library's services.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

**11 NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was public comment on mask wearing.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION 21-29** was made by Vivian Pagoulatos and seconded by Andrew McNally to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.
- The next meeting of the Bernards Township Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., June 30 2021. The location will be determined closer to the meeting date.