

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
of the Bernards Township Library
October 27, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUNSHINE LAW REMINDER

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, notice of this meeting has been given in the annual meeting notice sent to the Bernardsville News, Whippany, NJ and the Courier News, Bridgewater, NJ, on November 17, 2020, posted on the front and rear doors of the library (32 South Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ), filed with the Bernards Township municipal clerk, and posted on the library's and township's websites. The public may participate in this meeting only during the public portion, which takes place at the beginning and near the end of the meeting. To be recognized to speak, members of the public who are attending on Zoom via the web should use the raise hand function. Upon recognition by the President, you will unmute your microphone/video. Members of the public who are attending via phone call must hit *9 on their phone keypad to raise their hand to be recognized. Upon recognition by the President, they can unmute/mute their audio on their phone keypad. Individuals addressing the Board must give their name and address in an audible tone and will have 5 minutes to make their statement.

4. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Andrew McNally

Also Present: Lyn Begraft; Ellen Ryan, Supervising Librarian - Children's Services; and Athena Danalakis, Supervising Librarian – Adult Circulation Services

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

6. IMPACT OF SELF-CHECK SERVICE

Supervisors Ellen Ryan and Athena Danalakis updated the Board on the impact of selfCheck on patrons and staff. Both agreed that selfCheck has been well received by the public and offered these observations.

- Many patrons, having used a self-check system in other environments, are very comfortable with the technology.
- Children enjoy the sense of autonomy.
- This option offers a layer of peace of mind to many during the pandemic.
- It gives staff the flexibility to work with patrons who need more personal assistance.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 21-48 was made by Vivian Pagoulatos and seconded by Lew Cohen to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2021 meeting as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lew Cohen agreed to chair the Board Nominating Committee. As specified in the bylaws, Treasurer Vivian Pagoulatos and Secretary Mary Jane McNally will also serve on the committee that will present a proposed slate of officers at the December meeting to be voted on at the January reorganization meeting.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Lyn reported that there has been no announcement from the State Library regarding Library Construction Bond Act Grant Act applications.
- The DPW will address some leaks that have resulted from the recent heavy rain.
- Adult programming is in full swing, but adults have been slow to return to in-person programs.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance and Treasurer's Report—Vivian Pagoulatos
Vivian reported that 79% percent of the year has passed and Library spending is within the normal range. Next year Educational Supplies may be costlier because of the change in Baker & Tylor's discounts.
- B. Friends of the Library Liaison—Emily Johnston
 - The Library celebrated National Friends of the Library Week October 17-23. A scavenger hunt promoted services and materials that The Friends have supplied to the library. The Friends also purchased drawstring bags to be distributed as prizes.
 - Emily attended a Children's program to promote The Friends.
 - Emily approached Back to Nature regarding a possible fundraiser in the Spring.
- C. Land and Building—Jack Brull
MOTION 21-49 was made by Jack Brull and seconded by Vivian Pagoulatos to approve hiring The Accent Group to remove the deteriorating building fascia to allow for inspection at a cost not to exceed \$2,133 that will come from reserve account line1-01-LI-R0I-C05. With a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-0-0.
- D. Legislation & Advocacy—MaryJane McNally
No report
- E. Personnel—MaryJane McNally, Lew Cohen
MOTION 21-50 was made by Emily Johnston and seconded by Doug Roberts to adopt a resolution acknowledging the hiring of Lauren Beckman, part-time Library Assistant -Children's Services. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Strategic Plan—Vivian Pagoulatos, Lew Cohen
 - Vivian reviewed the highlights of the strategic plan survey, which has been completed by 894 participants.
 - Preliminary results reflect a very satisfied group of library users.
- G. Technology—Karen Kogut
No report
- H. Township Committee Liaison—Andrew McNally
No report

10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- **MOTION 21-51** was made by Emily Johnston and seconded by Lew Cohen to approve the Bernards Township Library 2022 Holiday and Other Early Closings. The motion passed unanimously.
- **MOTION 21-52** was made by Lew Cohen and seconded by Vivian Pagoulatos to approve the Bernards Township Library Board of Trustees 2022 Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was public comment regarding online access to newspapers.

13. ADJOURNMENT

- **MOTION 21-53** was made by Vivian Pagoulatos and seconded by Karen Kogut to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.
- The next meeting of the Bernards Township Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., November 17, 2021. The location will be determined closer to the meeting date.