

Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library
Minutes September 12, 2023, 7PM
Lambertville Free Public Library
6 Lilly St, Lambertville, NJ 08530
Meeting was held in person and via Zoom

The meeting of the Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library was called to order at 7:00 PM by Karen Riedeburg. In addition to Ms Riedeburg, present were Trustees Albert Bauer, Kate Winslow, Matt Larkin, Stephanie Volmer, Amy Connelly, Kathleen Harris, Walt Jiménez, Library Director Jen Sirak, and Mayor Andrew Nowick.

In compliance with the open public meetings act, it was announced that this was the September 13 meeting of the Trustees, which had been published in The Democrat and filed with the City Clerk for posting on the bulletin board located in City Hall.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Because there was not adequate time for everyone to review the minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting, approval was tabled until the next meeting.

Director's Report

- Oaxaca Day was a rousing success!
- National Medal application has been submitted. Many people helped make this happen, and all added something important. Special thanks to Mayor Nowick for spending many hours with it, and Franta for copy editing. The letters of support are very moving. The mayor suggests we put the application on our website, as an important historical document, something really worth preserving for the public.
- LPS will be joining the library every other Monday. Hopefully it works out and we get to do this through the whole school year. It's a very novel relationship: a public library temporarily becoming a school library. Steph Volmer points out that the PTA can jump in to find parent volunteers to help shepherd students to and from the library, and provide other support as needed (i.e Scholastic Book Fair).
- Our full-time employee onboarding: we are good to go, salary-wise. Still have a few things to hammer out re: benefits (especially pension issues). JS will summarize this, restate the options and send it to the mayor. This employee starts full-time on Monday.
- Had a visit from MAIN executive director (Morris Automated Information Network)—a giant consortium. Some perks: They have 24-hour turnaround for ILL, and they provide IT support. There is a possibility of joining independently (without joining the county system), which would give LFPL patrons access to all MAIN libraries, including the county library system, but we would need to be voted in (this could be an issue?). Got some good information and food for thought. Also, joining MAIN would be quite expensive (You pay to get in and then pay annually, plus the catalog would be bigger and more expensive). Kathleen Harris recommends talking to another small library that has joined in the last five years to see how it has worked for them.
- Annual audit is finished.

- Historic Society is working on a grant to collect oral histories that we are partnering with.
- Microfilm electronic recycling: We have the OK from the county to take our microfilm machine to their electronic recycling day on 9/23.
- Elevator continues to be problematic. While the issue is improving, it is hard to pinpoint the exact problem. Time to start asking: What is the end goal/solution?
- Water heater: Glenn Case has discovered that the apartment under the library gets its bathroom hot water from the library. The mayor will look into this and work with us to figure out a solution.
- The Green Fair: The Environmental Commission is hosting this event on Sept. 30 at Ely Field. The library is participating (since “we are the original renewal resource!”) but doesn’t have staff to man the library’s table, so board members will help out,

Treasury Report

The bills were presented and, on a unanimous vote, the motion to pay bills totaling \$8,354.54 was approved.

Committee Reports

a. Buildings and Grounds: Has not met recently, but KH had a question about the items that were highlighted during their strategic plan meeting...how and when will these be budgeted for and scheduled?

- AN reports that a contract will be awarded soon for the sidewalk to be fixed. And he hopes to earmark \$500,000 for the library for the next fiscal year.

b. Community Outreach: SV, Ricardo Zapata and Kate Winslow met about how to extend the benefits of Oaxaca day in local and more wide-ranging ways.

c. Finance (covered above in Treasurer’s Report): Questions about investing some of our reserve: should Albert look deeper into this? How much can we safely invest? A short-term CD or high-yield savings account? With the Bank of Princeton or somewhere else? AB will start an analysis.

d. Policy: did not meet

e. Strategic Planning: did not meet

Correspondence

- No correspondence

New Business

- This is Matt’s last meeting. Ed Hogue, recently retired as a branch director in the Somerset County system, will be taking Matt’s spot. If approved by the council, he will be official as of the next meeting.
- The attorney that we were using has not replied back to any overtures. (See Matt’s email) Jen found another attorney in Morristown that has reduced rates for libraries (\$225/hr, no retainer). This attorney says that the foundation definitely wants its own 501c3, its own board, etc.

- In place of an in-person fundraising event, we will do an end-of-the-year mailing asking for donations. SV and KW will spearhead this. Need to jump on right away so it will be ready to go by Nov. 1.

No public comment

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.