

Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library
Minutes February 13, 2023, 7PM
Lambertville Free Public Library
6 Lilly St, Lambertville, NJ 08530
Meeting was held in person and via Zoom

The virtual 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 Library Director Jen Sirak, Trustees Albert Bauer, Stephanie Volmer, Amy Connelly, Kathleen Harris, Walt Jiménez, Ed Hoag, Kate Winslow, and Ricardo Zapata (all via Zoom).

In compliance with the open public meetings act, it was announced that this was the February 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

The minutes from the January 16, 2024, meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasury Report

The bills were presented and, on a unanimous vote, the motion to pay bills totaling \$7,487.25 was unanimously approved (resolution 009-2024).

Director's Report by Jen Sirak

- The library has been alerted to a number of minor fire safety violations by the city's new fire official. Some are for us to rectify; some are for the city. Most things are relatively minor. We have 30 days to comply; we are working on it.
- Possible building renovations: Michael Burns has been investigating new ideas for the front door; will be discussed more in the Building and Grounds subcommittee.
- Jen will travel to Sparta to attend a meeting of DLNJ, our e-book consortium. Two small libraries are leaving our group to join MAIN. There will be discussion about what the future of our group could look like. (Publishers are not giving public libraries a break at all for e-books; most other parts of the state use Libby, rather than Cloud Library.) Discussion of using this point as a talking point for outreach and possible fundraising drive.
- JS and FB presented at the Kalmia Club about the library's Latina outreach programming and how this program can expand in the community.
- Our volunteer tutors are increasing, and so are community evening programs, which leads to crowded conditions at certain times. This continuing issue will need to be figured out.
- Annual State Report Survey for 2023 has been released by the NJ State Library. Staff is working on completing it.
- We have several staff members who are on extended leave for the next month, but so far everything is running OK.
- Trustee Kathleen Harris and her husband have been busy with prep work for painting the downstairs bathroom, and the space already looks brighter and happier.

- Andrea and Jen are embarking on the reorganization of the first floor storage spaces. This will hopefully be achieved throughout the next week or so. When finished we should have a place for a self-checkout state to go. Some trustees will volunteer to go in the Monday holiday to help with this work, while Kathleen is working on the bathroom.
- All trustees' contact information is now on the shared drive.

Children's Librarian Report by Danielle Bey-Mundhenk (submitted via email)

- The order for titles from this year's awards will be placed shortly, including from categories such as the Newbery Medal, Caldecott Medal, Coretta Scott King Book Award, etc.
- Attendance rising for Bouncy Booktime. Saturday Storytime started this weekend on Feb. 10, and will continue every other Saturday.
- LEGO Club restarted on Jan. 29 to great success.
- Thomas Day planning is underway. The event space is booked for Saturday, March 9.

Committee Reports

a. Buildings and Grounds: We will meet next Tuesday; Kate is talking with a local carpenter about fixing the windows and the pocket doors.

- Also working on a wireless fire alarm system that will be tied into a monitoring service.
- Working on options for the exterior paint colors, hoping to tone down the original suggestions to be more historical (this is in the works). The mayor will be introducing a bond ordinance at the 2/15 city council meeting that will include \$320K to repaint and paint the library. A non-quorum number of trustees will attend the meeting in support of this ordinance.
- Michael Burns has submitted some plans to deal with changing the handicap access to the north porch, but there are some issues with this plan that we need to deal with before it gets much further along. Suggestion for the board to revisit the original architect's plan, since there are so many new board members. The mayor wants to submit the design to the state as a placeholder to see if we can get funds, with the hopes of tweaking down the road.

b. Community Outreach: Did not meet. Kate finished the spreadsheet for end of year (all Give Butter) donations. Need to build upon this donor list for future fundraising. Also, would be good to plan a thank you reception for donors and as a way to educate people on what is going on at the library.

c. Finance (covered above in Treasurer's Report and budget info): We should plan and schedule upcoming fundraisers on Give Butter asap.

d. Policy: They did meet; we're talking about the community room use policy, among other issues.

e. Strategic Planning: The 2024–2027 Strategic Plan was unanimously approved. (Hooray!)

Correspondence

No correspondence.

New Business

No new business.

No public comment

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.