

Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library  
Minutes July 9, 2024, 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, Walt Jiménez, Amy Connelly, Ed Hoag, Kate Winslow, and Kathleen Harris.

In compliance with the open public meetings act, it was announced that this was the July 9 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 June 11, 2024, meeting were approved unanimously (Kate Winslow abstained).

### **Treasury Report**

The bills were presented, and the motion to pay bills totaling \$42,019.30 was unanimously approved (resolution 014-2024). Also, the CD has been renewed for another 6 months. We need to do a resolution to move the \$4,500 from the capitol account to the operating account for the pocket doors; unanimously approved.

### **Director's Report by Jen Sirak**

- Buildings and Grounds: Gallery pocket doors are about to undergo renovation. They will be removed and refinished off site (see treasury report).
  - City exterior painting project went out to bid for a second time; there were no bids in this second round. (Michael Burns reached out to 10 companies for the lead remediation and all said no.) As he said, this is actually a positive because now we can reach out directly to contractors we trust and ask for an estimate. But this will push the project out a bit more. The lead stripping and removal will impact building operations - how significantly we don't know yet - and then the repointing, repairs and painting. The lead removal will not happen before Oaxaca Day but it will hopefully occur soon after. Colors have been chosen and will be presented tonight at the Historic meeting as well; the board unanimously approves Boxcar Red, Porch Swing, Sea Glass and Baby Fawn for the exterior paint colors. The D&R Commission will still need to vote on this.
    - Elevator project – The city is considering replacing the elevator; the mayor will introduce a bond for another \$300,000 to cover any overages for the exterior project *and* the elevator replacement.
    - Room of Requirement fire door project is progressing but slowly.
- Oaxaca updates: Oaxaca planning has been rolling along and is about to shift into high gear in the next couple of weeks. People are gathering on Thursday nights for flower

making. Walt is meeting with Fran to help build out a spreadsheet of tasks, etc. to help with organization. Community Outreach suggests that we reach out to our donors to see if they want to volunteer; have them send their names to Fran.

- Possible Library Local History Project – A local resident who recently finished his MLS in library archives has expressed interest in organizing our local history vertical files and maybe creating an index for easier searching by patrons. This would be a temporary paid position through our donations and would start in the fall. We are meeting on Tuesday.
- National Library Medal Finalist – I have been in contact with the state library who suggested we consider reapplying this summer for next year's title. Send Jen suggestions for things that can be added to the application.
- Second Quarter Tax Payment is due to arrive after the July 23 council meeting.
- We've been getting some new, really great volunteers, but we don't have a dedicated staff person to organize them. We also need to do some sort of background check on these volunteers; these are questions for the Policy committee or for the state library meetings?

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

- Bouncy Book Time attendance has exploded with the Lambertville Academy attending them every Tuesday morning! We've hit a recent high attendance of 32 this past week (7/2). It's a wonderful opportunity to get the preschool age children in the library that did not have the opportunity to come with the public school this past year.
- Summer Reading: Adventure Begins at Your Library is on a roll! We have had a ton of kids (4-11) sign up and actively return their trackers for books and prizes. The visits throughout the year with LPS and the outreach to West Amwell has definitely caused an uptick in participation. There is also a noticeable increase in participation in the "Read to Me" early literacy program. The teen Summer Reading still has few participants as usual in recent years, but those that are participating are extremely active readers. Summer Reading has started off wonderfully with our Kickoff event, where we gave out Summer Reading materials to attendees, did face-painting, got temporary tattoos, played with bubbles, and more! We also just had our July 4<sup>th</sup> Craft Night, where we made America-themed suncatchers, bracelets, scratch art, and wind catchers. For teens, we have started a weekly Teen Yarn Club, where teens can stop by to work on their yarn-related projects, hang out with other teens, and listen to music. We will also have a Teen Game Night (after open hours, so they can be noisy!) on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Other upcoming events include Ballet Storytime from the Roxey Ballet Company and Eyes of the Wild animal presentation. Another upcoming event is Mad Science: Call of the Wild hands-on science workshop on July 10, which is our only registered event this Summer. The registration list has already filled up (which was also a great chance to show off our new calendar system with built-in registration).
- Ben's Balloons: Balloon Animal Workshop - This event rises in popularity every year, with an awesome turnout of 50 attendees. Ben is a fantastic presenter and makes sure the kids are engaged the entire time. We made the classic dog balloon animal and a parrot bracelet.

- Birdhouse Music - This program continues to be a fantastic event with our wonderful community partners, Birdhouse Center for the Arts. We just had our first event of the month, which will continue every Saturday in July. We had a wonderful turnout of 37 attendees total and look forward to future weeks!
- The Lambertville Academy has started coming to the Library weekly. The younger group attends Bouncy Book Time in the morning. They have been very enthusiastic and attentive during storytime! The older group comes during the afternoon for a craft or activity. They are now also participating in the Summer Reading program and check out books to read at the Academy regularly. This past week we made DIY books and made silly stories together by adding sentences onto each other's stories.
- The SHREA Family Engagement Committee will be hosting a Summer Reading Check-in and Craft Night event with us at the library on Wednesday, July 24. They will also be partnering with us for a special pop-up library on July 19, with extra handouts like stickers, temporary tattoos, and more!
- The Lambertville Parks and Recreation Commission has approached us about hosting a few programs from the Hunterdon County Park & Rec Department, with potential themes like basket-weaving, trees, local wildlife, and more! We are very excited for this kind of program and are ironing out dates and times now.
- The Pop-Up Library, which happens on the corner of Union St. and Bridge St. every Friday during the Summer, has been such a wonderful experience. We have had a number of library card sign-ups, Summer Reading program sign-ups, and handed out many other library materials. At the most recent pop-up library, a volunteer also brought voter registration forms to hand out for Hunterdon and Mercer counties.

### **Committee Reports**

- a. Buildings and Grounds: Covered in the director's report above.
- b. Community Outreach: Recap of the fundraiser at Owowcow; otherwise will meet before the next meeting.
- c. Finance (covered above in Treasurer's Report and budget info):
- d. Policy: did not meet.
- e. Strategic Planning: Karen has developed a spreadsheet; every committee should take a look to see what they should be working on. We will revisit this every few months to make sure items are on target.

### **Correspondence**

No correspondence.

### **New Business**

No new business.

No public comment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

