

Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library
Minutes December 9, 2025, 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 Library Director Jennifer Sirak, Trustees Stephanie Volmer, Ed Hoag, Walt Jimenez, Kathleen Harris, Amy Connelly, Kate Winslow, and Ricardo Zapata (via Zoom).

In compliance with the open public meetings act, it was announced that this was the December 9 meeting of the Trustees, which had filed with the City Clerk for posting on the bulletin board located in City Hall.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 14, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved (Ed Hoag and Kate Winslow abstained). The minutes from the November 11, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasury Report

The bills were presented, and the motion to pay bills totaling \$26,124.61 was unanimously approved (resolution 027-2025). The board had an opportunity to review the library's proposed 2026 budget in preparation for approval at the January meeting.

Director's Report by Jen Sirak

- The 2026 budget draft is complete and ready for review. Minimum wage in NJ is going to rise again next year to \$15.92. This is going to continue to impact our entire salary scale. I attached this year's insurance costs, which have increased by 12%. After a meeting with our insurance representative last week, I don't think there's any way we can cut back on what we have without risk to the library.
- The new elevator installation has been pushed back to February of 2026. The white container in the parking lot is for the elevator company. This will create some conflicts with programming scheduled around that time, but we'll work around it as best we can.
- We are still having first floor heater issues. The heater is working but it cannot get up to temperature. Custom Cooling has been in several times and made various adjustments which help but haven't solved the problem completely.
- Our second program for the NJSL Rev 250th grant centered on the role of Ferry Boats in Washington's Delaware River Dec 1776 crossing, including those in the Coryell's Ferry area. We had another great turnout of 29 people. Our January program will be at the Justice Center on January 15 at 6:30pm and discuss the rediscovered 1921 mural that was restored by a Lambertville conservator and will hang in the new Wash Crossing Museum.

- The city is considering leaving the state health care plan due to skyrocketing costs. They will be voting on this matter soon.
- The City is hoping to have a farmers market in the parking lot in front of the library in 2026. The market would run Sunday mornings from 9-12. I'm not sure yet what this would mean for the library but I hope to have more information in the near future.
- The Distillery across the street is working with the city and surrounding businesses to put together a Saint Patrick's Day event in the library lot in 2026. This would consist of live music, food, vendors, and the sale of bottles of their alcohol, not open containers. The city is asking the library and surrounding businesses to sign a letter if they are in support of this program. They plan to make a donation to the library out of the proceeds of the event.
- Our Annual Appeal is doing great! We had \$500 added to Givebutter just from this past weekend.
- 2026 Holidays – Please take a look at the following proposed holidays for 2026, which need Board approval in order to be posted: New Year's Day, MLK Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth (Third Friday in June), July 4th, Labor Day, Election Day (Staff work day; this worked well this year), Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve. Proposed Early Closings: Halloween, Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Additionally, a holiday falling on a Saturday will be observed on the preceding Friday, and a holiday falling on a Sunday will be observed on the following Monday. The board unanimously approved the dates for 2026.

Children's Librarian Report

- I've been keeping Annie busy with the books to catalog! I was finally able to spend the generous donation from the Kalmia Club for children's read-alongs (Wonderbooks, which have a built-in MP3 players now that people rarely have CD players anymore) and children's books in Spanish, a section that is now seeing some revitalization! An individual donation was also made to the children's Spanish section that allowed me to get even more new titles for that collection. Thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers going through the list of Lost Resources book by book, I'm also putting together an order of books that need to be reordered for the collection.
- Bouncy Book Time, LEGO Club, and Family Friday Board Games are all going strong. Bouncy Book is thriving – I see new and familiar faces every week. The grown-ups and kids alike enjoy both the story time and our play time afterwards – we had a fun extended play-doh play sessions today! LEGO Club continues with a great group as well – we have a good mix of STEM-oriented builders and story-tellers. Our board-gamers have been having a great time trying new games every week and making some great suggestions for library board game collection additions.
- We had a great turnout for the Roxey Ballet Cinderella storytime. The kids and adults were both enthralled by the dances, story, and the ballerina accoutrement (ballet shoes, costumes, and more).
- Our Solebury volunteers have returned for their second school trimester.

Committee Reports

- a. Buildings and Grounds: Met before tonight's meeting; will share a document with the full board of what we've accomplished and what we hope to accomplish in 2026.
- b. Community Outreach: End of year appeal mailing is out. We also had a productive meeting with a community member who is excited to help with fundraising. Also looking forward to a spring fundraiser (engraved bricks in a new front patio?).
- d. Policy: Worked on updating the policy re: Staff Procedures for Response to Law Enforcement Requests, and created a template to document any such interactions. The board unanimously approved the updated policy.
- e. Strategic Planning: Did not meet.

Correspondence

There was a piece of correspondence that the Friends of the Library is now a defunct organization because they have not filed for tax exempt status in more than three years.

New Business

Public Comment

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

