

Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library
Minutes November 11, 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, Albert Bauer, 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 November 11 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 will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Treasury Report

The bills were presented, and the motion to pay bills totaling \$51,228.66 was unanimously approved (resolution 026-2025).

Director's Report by Jen Sirak

- November 3 was the 100th anniversary of the referendum which made the subscription-based Stryker Library into the publicly supported Lambertville Free Public Library by an 85% yes vote. We celebrated by moving our circulation period from two weeks to three weeks. We also launched our 100th book community read and are planning some fun giveaways.
- The 2026 budget draft is essentially complete except for insurance costs which don't come until December. After a close look at each line item and receiving the final costs for healthcare after the open enrollment period, I have crafted a zero balance budget that includes cost of living increases. The finance committee will meet before the December meeting and the budget will be introduced in December.
- The city has reached out to Empower, the DCRP [The parttime 401K pension group] state regulator, to get the final numbers in place. Amy will organize a meeting with the mayor, Jen and several board members about this.
- During the fall maintenance check, an aging part in the HVAC system was discovered; replacement should be happening this week. It is still working well enough.
- Our first program for the 250th grant will take place on the library lawn on Sunday, November 16 from 1-3 pm and feature Lenni-Lenape dancers and educators.
- We are currently using Amazon to order books through their new library service. Service from other outlets such as Ingram and Brodart has naturally been very slow. Amazon is working on having full MARC records available hopefully by the end of the year, but

hasn't said anything about processing. Staff have absorbed the book covering and processing fairly easily into their normal duties. We also have a few volunteers working here and there which alleviates some other responsibilities of staff.

- We closed on Election Day so that we could finish up a bunch of odds and ends jobs and we made a lot of progress. I would like to have a staff work day in the calendar each year, preferably just before Sparkle Week.
- Our Annual Appeal is off to a great start! – Already we have received \$3250 in donations!
- No word lately from the elevator group, but hoping we are still on track for late December/early January replacement.

Children's Librarian Report

- Oddly enough, with the recent ordering system upset, book acquisitions have been on an uptick. We've got a ton of wonderful new nonfiction for the Juvenile collection, including filling in gaps in our world holidays/traditions section, books about growing up and navigating friendships, books about using AI safely and ethically, and revitalizing our biography section. Orders planned for the rest of the year include the book order for the 250th Anniversary of the Revolution, a Spanish-language book order, and a last order of discounted books from Baker & Taylor.
- Bouncy Book Time has been flourishing, and it's so wonderful to see the kids continue to grow, learn, and come out of their shells! LEGO Club has also gotten back to our usual attendance and continues to be a great creative and social outlet for the kids. Board Game group is struggling, so I may go back to the drawing board on the day/time, but those that do come have a great time!
- We finally had our Reader's Breakfast (a little postponed due to the extension of Summer Reading) and it was a hit as usual. The kids loved their special breakfast and got reading certificates to take home.
- Next Wednesday we have a Cinderella Ballet Storytime from the Roxey Ballet Company, which I'm sure will be a hit with the tiny royalty of Lambertville.
- I replaced the old Game Cart (thankfully it arrived to build on our work day last Tuesday!) in the kids' section with one that the games will no longer fall off of and have been working on revitalizing the collection while keeping classics and the kids' favorites.
- Our Solebury volunteers have been doing a great job with their tasks, whether it's the Homework or Tech help, or one of the many other tasks we've got them working on. They've been a fantastic group and I look forward to having them back in December!
- Louise, the New Hope children's librarian, and I having been working together on a few things, and are now looking to eventually work on some cross-bridge programming together!
- On a silly note, I've been creating some "This or That" votes at the front desk, which have been surprisingly popular. It originated as a way for the kids to participate in a voting process leading up to the November election, but it seems like a fun addition to the front desk for now that even the adults are enjoying (if not even more than the kids)!

Committee Reports

- a. Buildings and Grounds: Will meet soon to revisit the permanent sign project.
- b. Community Outreach: end of year appeal postcards should be mailed within the week. We did expand to local PO Boxes and businesses.
- c. Finance: See above
- d. Policy: Did not meet, but Karen did draft a document regarding how staff to respond to potential ICE visits; staff is reviewing now.
- e. Strategic Planning: no report

Correspondence

No correspondence.

New Business

- Currently looking for Albert's replacement on the board. Candidates should be recommended to the mayor.

Public Comment

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

