

Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library
Minutes September 9, 2025, 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 Jennifer Sirak, Trustees Stephanie Volmer, Ed Hoag, Albert Bauer, Walt Jimenez, Kathleen Harris, and Kate Winslow.

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the August 12, 2025, meeting were approved unanimously (Amy Connelly abstained).

Treasury Report

The board retroactively and unanimously approved resolution 023-2025 regarding the signatories on the bank account. The bills were presented, and the motion to pay bills totaling \$8,012.59 was unanimously approved (resolution 024-2025).

Director's Report by Jen Sirak

- Met with state Assemblyman Verelli, thanks to an introduction by Councilman Kominsky. He suggested hosting an outreach session at the library. Assemblyman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson also stopped in.
- There have been so many positive comments by patrons about the library renovations. Everyone has been very excited and happy to return to the library, and there has been buzz all over town about how nice the building looks both inside and out.
- The task list left from the renovations has been slowly getting whittled down. Thank you especially to the Buildings and Grounds committee and Dann Connelly for dedicating a lot of hours helping to get these final few things completed.
- I would like to close the library on election day and have it be a staff work day to finish any outstanding projects left at that point. If we get everything finished beforehand we can use it as a staff workshop day. A motion to close the library on Election Day (November 4) was unanimously approved.
- The audit has been successfully completed. The auditors met with staff to review a few suggested action items, some in conjunction with the city, which will be incorporated in the upcoming months.
- The new elevator company has been in the library several times to take measurements and finalize their plans for the installation of the new elevator. We are still on track for mid-December/January. This will be a 4-6 week project. The first week will be the

loudest, with construction demolition happening. We should plan on closing the library for those beginning days. After that, I need to ask the fire marshal about how we can open the second floor, if at all, during the project. After the elevator is installed, I would like to have that area along with the back stairwell and the built-in-fiction shelves repainted next winter, if possible. Then the entire library will have been painted.

- We have an unhoused individual living out by the generator; this has been an ongoing situation. As we have had some bad situations in the past, we don't want this to continue. The board will write a letter to the police to support the library director and staff on this issue if needed.

Children's Librarian Report

- We are full of new books upstairs! I haven't started the large nonfiction reorder yet due to there being an influx of new books. Also, due to it being a big order, the timing will allow me to split the bulk of it between this year's budget and next fiscal year.
- Summer Reading is over! We had a fairly decent turnout for the reading challenge considering the renovation – many of the families decided to start after we re-opened rather than go to the city hall location, so we realistically only had about a month of the reading challenge. I did extend it an extra week to get any last-minute entries. We had a fantastic turnout for most of our Summer Reading events.
- Bouncy Book Time continues, as always, however the crowd may get reduced a bit with some of our regulars attending preschool. To help with this, I'm planning to offer an evening storytime for little ones who are in preschool during the day and for parents that work during the day – time/day TBD though. Bouncy Book Time at the Park has been a blast and will continue until the weather gets too cold outside.
- LEGO Club is back in action and drawing a weekly crowd. I'm restarting our Board Game afternoon programs Friday, 9/12. I've been refreshing the board game collection to replace some of our classics that went missing, get some games that have been recommended, and get some new, exciting games that I think not just the kids, but adults too will enjoy!
- Again, though not a kids' program, I'm helping deputy clerk Lindsay run Bad Art Night at the library! This month, we're doing a Spooky theme.
- Our community partner Shelby has reached out from New Hope Celebrates to schedule our next Drag Queen Story, likely to be held at the end of October for a Halloween theme.
- I've also planned a Financial Literacy event for kids and young teens 8-14 years old with the Bank of Princeton. An adult program is also happening, focused on Fraud and Scam Awareness and Prevention. They are very excited to extend their community ties to the library.
- I will be attending the Lambertville Butterfly Festival, sponsored by Parks & Recreation, on September 13 with Bug Book activities and a Very Hungry Caterpillar craft.
- Lastly, I'm extending a big "thank you" to Dann Connelly for taking the last of the electronics/wiring tasks off of my hands that I didn't have the skill to carry out. Our new second floor Public Catalog is ready to go – the kids and teens will be thrilled!

Committee Reports

- a. Buildings and Grounds: We have met a few times since the last meeting and are working on ticking off Jen's list of tasks that need to be closed out.
- b. Community Outreach: Staff appreciation dinner scheduled for 5:30 pm on Friday, Sept. 19 at Anton's at the Swan. We also need to get started ASAP on the annual end of year fundraiser.
- c. Finance: See above
- d. Policy: no report
- e. Strategic Planning: no report

Correspondence

No correspondence.

New Business

- Albert Bauer is rotating off the board at the end of the year; Walt Jimenez has agreed to take over the treasurer role. This means a spot is opening up on the board that will need to be filled.
- Last month we spoke about the awards recognizing staff who worked above and beyond their job description during the renovation. After further research, we will be able to issue these awards through payroll as performance-based bonuses.

Public Comment

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

