

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE ABINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Date: July 22, 2024

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Joe Milano.

PRESENT: Joe Milano, Emily Cooper, Lauren Greaves, Nancy Wright, Maurie Markman, Daniel Kaye, Elaine Cassidy Shanahan, and Liz Fitzgerald were in attendance along with Sara Huff, Terry Biansco, Michelle Washington, and Diane Moskal.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2024, was made by Joe Milano, seconded by Nancy Wright. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION: Sara Huff presented about the Teen Department. She gave us an overview of the department's offerings, including the teen space, board games, self-care station, and letter-writing station. We discussed starting an Amazon Wish List to ensure that the self-care station remains stocked. Information about this will be placed in next month's newsletter. Sara informed us of monthly programs like Ab-Tab (similar to the library's student council) and Q Crew for LGBTQ+ teens and allies. We discussed the possibility of having representatives from those groups meet with the board so connections between those groups can be made. Yearly events include Power of the Pen, an anthology of original teen written works, and Tiny Art Show. Power of the Pen won a Best Practices award with the PA Library Association! Other programs include DIY crafts, writing workshops, Dungeons and Dragons with PSU, and mindfulness meditation, among others. Teens volunteer nearly 3,000 hours each year at the library! Teen Craft Fair took place a few weeks ago and was a huge success; 23 table of goods were offered.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- The library experienced YTD growth for endowments.
- Total assets over \$4M.

The June Treasurer's Report was reviewed and will be filed for audit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Personnel and Library Business

- Library budget submitted to Township. Liz also submitted capital requests to move Young Adult space downstairs and Book Cellar and book sales upstairs, where Young Adult space currently sits.
- New Youth Services Librarian, Susie Hawkins, was hired.
- Liz has accepted a few new responsibilities with the Township, including "emceeding" some events.

Strategic Plan

- Pop-Ups in the Park began on July 10 and will continue Wednesdays throughout the summer. Approximately 100 people attended the first one.

Circulation

- Department has been busy with the increase in library card registrations and stamping of passport books.

Reference

- Nearly 1000 more questions this month compared to April. Very busy!

Program Highlights

- Board in the Library had 18 people and generated a lot of interest for it to occur again.

Upcoming Program Highlights

- Library Speakers' Consortium events are bringing in a lot of exciting authors.

Technology

- Upgrade for Polaris planned.
- Switched internet providers. Some issues with new equipment. It's possible that the library will have a lapse in internet for a day, hopefully during Labor Day weekend when library is closed.

Children's and Young Adults

- It's been a very busy summer with loads of cool programming. Summer Reading and Abington READS have had great uptake.

Program Highlights for Children's and Young Adults

- Author Dhonielle Clayton will speak August 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Tech services

- Religion section now organized in chronological order.

Roslyn

- Briar Bush is at Roslyn tonight.

- Codes and Secret Messages and Mad Science getting rave reviews!

Facilities

- Jim continues to clean up Roslyn and gets lots of praise for his hard work. Staff from both buildings are very grateful for his hard work and results.

ADULT LITERACY REPORT:

- Students and tutors continue to flock to the programs. 207 hours spent tutoring 51 students this month. 214 instructional hours in classes. Elizabeth keeps testing and matching students. 70 individual tutors involved in these programs. Potluck reception was a lovely celebratory evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Friends – Terry Bianco: Pop-up sale was very successful and profitable, despite taking place during the heat wave! Fall Sale will take place on the last Saturday in September. Although many Friends are excited about the proposed shift in moving the Book Cellar upstairs, they also anticipate the undertaking to involve a lot of hard work and hopes its members' voices and questions will be heard so the transition can run smoothly. Liz assured Terry that the shift will be well thought-out and carefully planned. Terry expressed concern about where books will be stored during the transition and how books will be moved. Books will need to be boxed during the move and donations will continue to come in during the transition. She underscored that it will be a lot of work but worth it in the end. Book Cellar has very hard-working dedicated volunteers. Brought in \$52K this past year!
- Personnel – Nancy Wright: No updates.
- Development/Long-Range Planning -- Maurie Markman: No updates.
- Facilities – Joe Milano: No updates.
- Finance and Investment– Emily Cooper: No updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Liz brought up the following revisions to the 2025 Board meeting calendar: Shift May meeting to May 19, 2025, and September meeting to Sept 29, 2025.

CORRESPONDENCE: Distributed to all Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Diane Moskal commended Terry for her honesty and praised Sara for her efforts. Michelle seconded Diane's praise for Sara's successes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Joe Milano to adjourn the Board meeting, seconded by Lauren Greaves. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Our next Board meeting is September 23, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Emily Cooper will attend Friends meeting in the Library Community Room on September 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Cassidy Shanahan
Board Secretary