

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

Date: March 24, 2025

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Joe Milano.

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

Joe Milano began the meeting with reflections about Nancy Wright, ATPL board member who passed away on March 3. The group then introduced themselves and shared backgrounds in their first meeting with Chris Christman.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2025, was made by Joe Milano, seconded by Maurie Markman. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION: No presentations were made.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The January 2025 Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Highlights include:

- Variances due to timing issues and transition to new software and are expected to even out in coming months.
- Operating expense from township is on its way and will be reflected in February report.
- High electric expenses will be addressed by choosing a cheaper provider moving forward.
- Program expenses relatively high because of some frontloaded costs (i.e., booking authors for future events).

The January 2025 Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Inservice day went very well. Thank you to Chris Christman for attending. Very positive feedback from staff. Emergency preparedness presentation was engaging and informative. Your Way Home shared information about homeless services. Good to learn about its resources. Two district consultants presented on Rising to the Challenge. Very interactive. The therapy dogs provided a much-needed, fun break.
- Opportunities to fill several ATPL position vacancies are currently posted.
- Not clear what effect the Executive Order to dismantle library services will have on ATPL. Our library does not get federal funding although it does receive indirect resources and support from IMLS through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. If cuts are made to IMLS, ATPL will lose a variety of services, including access to shared electronic and online resources like interlibrary loan.
- Local seniors are expressing distress about upcoming changes to Social Security sign-on processes. We discussed the possibility of arranging tutorial sessions at the library during which PSU Abington college students might work with seniors to help them prepare for these logistical changes.

Adults

- Winter Reading Challenge resulted in thousands of logged reading hours!
- Polaris will be upgraded on April 9. People will need their actual library cards that day to check out books.

Children's

- Lots of great programs – 872 attendees. St. Pat's Day drop-in had 144 attendees.
- Mural is complete and is very well-received. New bookshelf and tree-stump chairs will be added to that area of Children's Department.
- Minecraft Movie Party coming up. Professional photographer will be there for it.
- Math with a Mutt was also very fun and popular.

Young Adults

- Two Meditative Arts programs funded by Keep It Safe grant.
- Dungeons and Dragons is back with the first in a four-part series.
- Teens volunteered for nearly 500 hours in January.

Tech Services

- Staff is preparing for the departure of Carol Vinatieri and upcoming family leave for Beth Jacksier.

Roslyn

- Preschool Storytime filled the Roslyn space to the brim.
- Design Your Own Slime program filled in 2 days!

Facilities

- Jim repaired numerous leaks. PECO had to repair a gas leak in front of the building.

ADULT LITERACY REPORT:

- Need persist for tutoring services. So many classes – the library is running out of space to implement them.
- Elizabeth and Erica staying apprised of potential changes to ICE and impact on student population. They are in talks with Abington Presbyterian to host info-sharing sessions. A remote meeting took place with ACLU and Philadelphia Legal Assistance about suggested policies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Friends – Terry Biansco: Friends happy to support the new Children’s Department mural. Jim and Seamus worked very hard addressing leaks that affected the Book Cellar. April 26 is the Book Sale in Community Room and Book Cellar. Event will also include plant sale, jewelry table, flea market and bake sale.
- B. Personnel – Daniel Kaye: We will need to address the vacant board position that now needs to be filled.
- C. Development/Long-Range Planning -- Maurie Markman: No updates.
- D. Facilities – Joe Milano: No updates.
- E. Finance and Investment– Emily Cooper: No updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: A friend of Nancy Wright’s expressed interest in gifting the ATPL \$25,000 in honor of Nancy. Liz and she discussed options for this gift, including an author speaker series. No decision yet has been made about use of these funds.

A motion was made by Joe Milano, seconded by Maurie Markman, to approve an upcoming family leave request for a current employee, as it fell within FMLA parameters. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Distributed to all Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Diane Moskal attended the Friends and Trustees Institute session virtually. She reiterated the importance of people reaching out to state reps about upcoming Social Security changes. Expert in fundraising for libraries shared how taxpayers can make strategic choices at tax time that are of greater benefit to organizations of their choice, including libraries, who will get funds tax-free. She encouraged the library to have wish list with costs associated with each line item so they can be more assertive about their needs.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Our next Board meeting is April 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

The next Friends meeting will take place in the Library Community Room on May 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Cassidy Shanahan
Board Secretary