

July 18, 2023
Joint Free Public Library
Of Morristown and Morris Township
Board of Trustees

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township was called to order at 6:08pm.

Representing Morristown were: Patricia Ard, Secretary; and Lisa Price

Representing Morris Township were: Don Kiel, Vice President; Geoff Brooks, Treasurer

Also present were: Deanna Quinones, alternate for Mayor Dougherty; Beth Quirk-Hendry, alternate for Mayor Gyorfy; Deb Gottsleben, alternate for Superintendent Mucci; Chad Leinaweaver, Director; and Mary Lynn Becza, Assistant Director

Pursuant to a resolution of the Board and to RS 10:4-10, "Open Public Meetings Act," the vice president announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting notices of the meeting in the Library, by handing the Clerks of Morristown and Morris Township notices of the meeting, and by mailing to the Morris County Daily Record and the Star Ledger copies of the notices of the meetings all more than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

Minutes

The June 20, 2023 monthly meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Brooks noted that the library was at the halfway point in the year, including for salary and benefits. The library is within its budget, and has received 50% of its monies from both municipalities. Report accepted.

Director's Report

The following are major points presented by Mr. Leinaweaver:

- *Sadly, Kelly Simms, a former Bookmobile driver, died.
- *The library received full grant funding from its application to the Morris County Preservation Trust.
- *The director has applied to the Morristown Rotary for a grant.
- *A new inventory of the library's computers is being done, and MAIN will soon be replacing the firewall.
- *The children's summer reading program is well underway.
- *The evening YA reading group is very popular.
- *Mr. Leinaweaver is researching the benefits of the library's subscription to the OCLC account, which costs approximately \$10,000.00 annually.
- *Various outreach programs were discussed, including the library's recent participation in Diversity Day.

- *The rock snake outside the library is growing!
- *The benefits and contents of the off-site security storage were discussed.
- *Recent incidents of disruptive minors and the best response to same were discussed.

Building and Grounds Report

The following are the major points presented by Ms. Becza:

- *HVAC problems have been occurring sporadically throughout the library; a 1987 unit will eventually need replacing.
- *The media office is often too warm, and the solution might be giving that room its own thermostat.
- *The entire second floor is on one thermostat with resulting uneven temperatures; ways to solve this problem are under analysis.
- *Squirrels are chewing the lead joints on the roof and have been asked to stop.

Committees

*Budget-Messieurs Keil, Brooks, Quillan, and Leinaweaver met this day with Township representatives, and the Township's assessor explained the details of its funding formula. The assessor asserted that the lack of a Morristown property evaluation since 2004 has kept Town funding flat. The town administrator suggested that one way to solve the library's funding needs was for both Town and Township to pay some funds from their PILOT programs.

*Some salaries for 2024 will be raised, and the library will determine how those raises affect library funding overall.

*Education Liaison – Ms. Gottleben noted that school's out for summer. The issue of state instances of school/library book censorship was discussed.

*Investment – No report.

Foundation: It was affirmed in principle to move ahead on the agreed terms of the 83 South St. lease. Library counsel has raised the issue of whether an independent marketing analysis is needed before signing the lease. It was noted that such a report would cost \$2240.00 with little possibility of Hampshire re-negotiating terms at this late stage.

*\$5,000.00 for the library's sponsorship of the October, 2023 town Book Festival was approved.

*Nominations –No report.

*Insurance- The director referenced his recent email to the Board on the subject of whether flood insurance is needed; the library is not in a flood zone. The director will query our insurance provider Mr. Coutts if the library is in a flood plain.

*Personnel – The following personnel action was approved: Hire Leigh Whitworth, PT History Center Library Asst. @ \$15.00/hr. The Director noted Mr. Whitworth's enthusiasm for the job.

*Facility and Grounds – No report.

*Branding and Marketing—The committee presented its final suggestion for a new library logo. A discussion ensued of same. The colorful circle/window logo was approved by a majority of the Board, with the committee noting that the logo's colors could be easily changed in the future, if so desired. The committee will now move forward on the issue of a library motto.

New Business: Ms. Ard queried if the library was interested in becoming involved in providing programs and services surrounding the upcoming 250th national semi-centennial on July 4, 2026. A discussion ensued on the topic, with the Board deciding to put the issue on the fall agenda for further discussion.

Old Business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Ard, Secretary