

June 17, 2025
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 6:04pm.

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

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

Also present were: Deanna Quinones, alternate for Mayor Dougherty; Anne Piascik, 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 president announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting notices of the meeting in the library, and providing same to the Clerks of Morristown and Morris Township as well as to the Morris County Daily Record and The Star Ledger, all more than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

Minutes

The May 20, 2025 monthly minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Brooks noted the library was 42% of the way through its budget year. The report was received.

The director welcomed Kristin Hayes of the Wiley Malehorn firm. The board entered closed session at 6:06pm to discuss ongoing litigation, and returned to open session at 6:15pm. The board then approved the settlement agreement presented at this meeting in the case of the Township of Morris v. Town of Morristown.

Director's Report:

- *The benefits of a policy governing “naming” objects and areas in the library is under discussion, and will be discussed with the Foundation.
- *A few panels were removed from the 1987 wing tower to review the stability of the steel supports in the columns. The director briefly discussed architect Bob Russell’s report on same. A longer discussion of the report will be placed on the July, 2025 meeting agenda.
- *Personnel matters will be discussed under New Business.
- *The meeting room policy will be reviewed by counsel for possible updates.
- *The OCLC database was discontinued in the past, but is now being reconsidered as part of a consortium account in Main.
- *The library phone system is being changed as of June 18, 2025.
- *There has been an increase in community groups requesting participation by the library.

The director welcomed Glenn Coutts for an insurance update. Mr. Coutts noted that the building insurance was raised, and the business income limit was increased. The director affirmed a board suggestion that a general reappraisal of replacement costs for material objects, excluding the history center collection, would be beneficial.

Building and Grounds Report

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

- *The Miller Road door has been reinstalled after an extensive restoration. A new method to alarm the door that does not require drilling on it is being devised. A long missing brass frame for part of the door will be replaced.
- * The grate at the Miller Rd. entrance to the library’s back lot has been successfully repaired.
- *Morristown Beautiful, with Ms. Becza’s assistance, planted bushes around the library’s new sign.

Committees

*Budget- At a recent meeting, Mr. Brooks updated the Foundation on the four room renovation projects, since the January, 2025 sprinkler event had delayed their progress. The Foster Fund investment guidelines will now be used for other endowments overseen by the Foundation. The Foundation voted to increase its sponsorship of the Morristown Festival of Books to the rate of \$10,000. Hampshire Properties of 83 South St. has replaced the building’s roof.

*Education Liaison – Ms. Piascik noted that the district schools are out for summer.

*Foundation- Mr. Brooks stated the Foundation is considering sponsoring a speaker event that would be open to the public and library supporters. The board enthusiastically offered its support.

*Nominations -N/R

*Insurance- See Mr. Coutts discussion, above.

*Personnel- See New Business, below. Mr. Leinaweaver noted that a full- time circulation assistant will be needed in the near future due to a probable retirement.

*Facility and Grounds: There will be a meeting to determine what projects might be packaged together for bidding purposes.

*Branding and Marketing-The bookmobile logo has been redesigned to incorporate the new library logo.

New Business:

The board approved the hiring of the following new personnel: Rose Eid, Young Adult Librarian @ \$59,000; Nicole Turcios, Media PT Library Assistant @ \$16.00/hr.; and Jennifer Stone, Reader's Advisor @ \$16.00/hr. Mr. Leinaweaver noted that in-house hires of necessity require a new hire for that newly opened position.

Old Business:

N/R

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Ard, Secretary