

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library
Board of Trustees
Minutes from meeting held April 21, 2014
6:30pm

PRESENT: Carol Hillestad, Maureen Siglin, Jane Niering, John Seese, MaryAnn Miller, Sonia Naus, Cindy DeLuca & Wendy Price.

EXCUSED: Eileen Durkin and Joyce Upright.

RESIGNATION: As of today's date, Jayne Costanzo has resigned from the library board due to work scheduling conflicts. She told Cindy that she would still be willing to help out with some of the library's events when possible. We thank her for her time and dedication to the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Cindy and Carol noted a couple of corrections that need to be made to the March minutes. In the fourth paragraph of the Librarian's Report it should read Monroe County Associated Libraries, not Pennsylvania. In the fourth paragraph of the Building Report the name of the man from Groener's is Mike not Mark. And under Fundraising, the second paragraph that mentions the postponement of Baubles for Books should have read "to be decided at the next board meeting". A motion to approve the March minutes with these corrections was made by Sonia Naus, second by Jane Niering. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The first and most wonderful thing to note is that the ESSA commercial loan (a.k.a. THE MORTGAGE) is now 0!!!!!!!!!! Bill Lewis, a bank representative, will hand deliver the finalized mortgage papers to Cindy shortly!!!

The \$3,000.00 from Mt. Airy for the 2013 tax year has yet to be received, but Cindy expects it soon.

A motion to file the treasure's report for audit was made by MaryAnn Miller. All were in favor.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: All of the library's e books, e magazines, and e audio books will be paid for by county and district aid and a \$1,000.00 grant from the Weiler Corporation. The reading materials that are paid for by the county and district aid cannot be counted in our 12% expenditure for books, but the Weiler grant can.

Cindy touched on the various programs and activities being held at the library and mentioned that if any of us are able to stop by the library when the Wee One's Wiggle program is in session it would surely put a smile on our faces to watch the kids!! The sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:30.

BUILDING REPORT: Jane Niering talked to Mike at Groener's. He is going to send us a synopsis of the geothermal system and note any necessary recommendations for its maintenance and repair.

The rear-door people counter is barely operative. Cindy is looking into a replacement.

FUNDRAISING: Carol spoke to Joyce Raczko about the Friend's letter. She is willing to help with it, but cannot chair it. Most of the work that goes into generating this letter is done by library volunteers, but we need a person to be in charge of the project. It takes about two days to assemble the letter (folding, stuffing envelopes, etc.)

The Book Sale location will need to be changed because the current space at the old Ford / Chevy dealership has been rented out by the owners. A number of suggestions were made including space in one of the rear buildings of Callie's Candy Kitchen and the Gundersen property near the Legion. The old drug store building was also suggested but it has mold and damp issues. MaryAnn will speak with Gretchen Callie and John Seese is going to ask at the township about the building space on the Gundersen property. Cindy is going to ask the members of the Barrett Twp Volunteer Fire Co. about helping with moving the books to their new location.

Jayne Costanzo suggested Jeanie Riley as a person to staff the Flea Market Kitchen because she has helped with this event in the past. Jayne can no longer do it because of her work schedule. Carol said she would follow up with Jeanie.

We have about a third of the jewelry that we have had in the past to sell at Baubles for Books this year. Carol feels we should set up what jewelry that we do have for sale during the Memorial Day weekend and then leave it up for the rest of the week.

Carol and Cindy met with Mike O'Shea at BuckHill about this year's LOL. He has to review some other requests of event dates, but he will look at the availability to host LOL near the end of August.

OLD BUSINESS: Eileen Durkin has been doing a wonderful job with the management of the adult programs offered by the library. Cinco de Mayo and its impact on the American Civil War, a program by Harry Roach, will be on May 5th at 6:30. On June 3rd Linda Besecker will show folks how to make a Fairy Garden.

NEW BUSINESS: New Trustees: Currently we have nine trustees/board members. Carol feels we should go back to having 10-11 board members and most of us agreed. A number of people in the community were suggested: Molly Bender, Danny Whitesell, Raquelle Hustad, Gretchen or Mark Reisenwitz, Diane Price, and members of the Pipilo family. Carol will reach out to a number of these folks to see if any of them are interested in joining the board. We will continue discussion at our next meeting.

Policy Decisions: Two policy decisions need to be made by the board. One is regarding the use of the Weiler Community Room for political meetings and one is regarding the

use of the library's Kindles by patrons. The board doesn't have to make a decision tonight on these policies, but they need to be discussed and decisions made possibly at the next board meeting.

Cindy provided the board with a library policy piece regarding the use of the Weiler Room, but it was noted that this was only a draft of policy and was never voted on and passed by the board. There is a specific paragraph about political activities in this draft. Discussion on this followed touching on such issues as fees to be charged, what constitutes freedom of speech, etc. Carol feels we should seek legal advice about having political candidates use the room and whether or not we can OR should charge a fee for its use. Carol will speak to Kirby Upright about this policy and we will continue discussion at our next meeting.

Cindy also provided us with a sample agreement to be used when patrons of the library would like to check out one of the library's three Kindles. We should all review this agreement so we can discuss it further at our next meeting as to what changes and or additions should be made to it in order to fit our needs. Cindy borrowed this agreement from the Cheltingham Twp Library. Most other libraries feel people check the Kindles out as a "test drive" to see if they may want to invest in one for themselves. When someone borrows one of ours, they can only tap into books that the library has access to. Carol is also going to ask Kirby to review this agreement and determine whether requiring a photo id is legal.

Capital Reserve Account: With the mortgage principle being completely paid off, we have over \$5,000.00 "left over" at ESSA. This is money that was donated to the library but was not designated for the use of paying the mortgage. Discussion followed as to whether we should leave it in the account at ESSA or move it into the library's account at Morgan Stanley which earns a higher rate of interest. We feel we have a fiduciary responsibility to put this money into the investment vehicle that will earn the library the most interest.

A motion to transfer the money left over at ESSA after the mortgage is paid off from ESSA to Morgan Stanley to a Capital Reserve account was made by Sonia Naus, a second by Jane Niering. All were in favor.

John Seese brought up the issue of the possible millage increase to help the library make ends meet. He stated that the tax payers of both Barrett and Paradise townships use this building and they should have to share in the cost of maintaining it. He feels that if the Paradise Twp supervisors approve a millage increase Barrett Twp may follow suit. Broken down, the increase translates to about \$25.00 a year for the average household. Since 1994 when the library campaigned for its last millage increase, so much of the library's functionality and what the public wants and needs from the library has changed. The yearly operational expenses have increased dramatically and revenue received from the state to help with these operational expenses has decreased just as dramatically. Operating support from the County has been eliminated completely.

Currently the millage for the library is .75 mills and we are requesting it be raised to 2 mills. John said the supervisors can agree to vote on the millage increase, but if not, it will have to go on the ballot as a referendum in the fall. John feels the Barrett Supervisors' decision to vote on the increase will be contingent on Paradise Township's decision. This millage increase would result in total revenue from the two townships of \$225,000.00; \$123,000 from Barrett and \$105,000 from Paradise. The topic plans to be discussed at the next regularly scheduled township meetings for both Barrett and Paradise. We will discuss the results of these meetings at our next board meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:45 by Maureen Siglin.

Next meeting: May 19, 2014 at 6:30p.m.