

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2025

Meeting held in the Weiler Family Community Room with a virtual option

In Attendance: Mike Stein, President; Julie Wynne, Vice President; Cindy Cook, Secretary. Trustees: Brette Fulton, Judi Jabara, Nancy Lewis, Julie Niering, Maureen Siglin, Darryl Speicher. Mary Ann Lewis, Library Director. Richard Leist, Treasurer, was not in attendance.

Mike Stein, President, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

The minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Darryl Speicher made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Julie Wynne second, and all were in favor. Julie Niering abstained due to being absent from meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** –Mike Stein reported per Richard Leist the financial state of the library is solid. There are no liabilities or debt. The grant revenue is on budget but lower than the previous year due to not anticipating receiving funds from the Hommer Foundation this year. Grant expenses are also lower due to the geo-thermal unit not needing replacement yet. Julie Niering made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Brette Fulton second, and all were in favor.

**Library Director's Report** – Mary Ann reported volunteer numbers were up this month due to Books and Bubbly. Library visitors were also up due to Books and Bubbly as well as the Barrett Township Historical Society's meeting. Joe Snedecker from WNEP stopped by the library for a brief visit during his Go Joe fundraiser bike ride tour. Mary Ann noted the STEM color science program had a great attendance as well as many other programs. Mary Ann took some books and jewelry donations to an auctioneer that the library does business with and the items brought in \$790.00. Mary Ann also announced she was elected to the board of directors for the PA Library Association beginning January 2026. Mary Ann shared the library goodness for the month was the library as a community hub with lots of activity. For example, in just one morning there was a group of patrons working on a puzzle together, patrons using their laptops to study, a very lively story time, a yoga class, and the window washers were here too. Circulation stats are looking very nice as they are higher than last month and last year at this time. Program stats are looking good as well. Cheslea has been providing an in-person story time at the Magnolia Education Center; there were 74 attendees at the Color Our World Summer Reading Kick-off Party held at Ice Lake. At least 60 people visited the Tail on a Trail in June. Upcoming programs include a butterfly release, a make your own gnome, and this Wednesday AARP will be holding a fraud awareness program at 4:00 p.m.

**Building Report** – Super Heat was here Friday morning to perform routine maintenance and filter changes on the geo thermal system. Karl Forsell was here to repair issues with the automatic flush on the toilets. Window cleaning took place this morning and the landscaping issues will hopefully be addressed soon. The digital sign out front is not displaying the temperature correctly and Mary Ann is working on troubleshooting.

**Fundraising** – The new Friends Letter has been sent out. The bulk mailing was a bit of a tedious process due to online technical glitches and the letter went out a few days later than planned. LOL Comedy Night is this Saturday and tickets for Dinner and Show are sold out. There are a few tickets left for Show Only.

**Grants and Donations** – The library received \$25,000.00 from the Hommer Foundation for a few years but applications for 2025 were paused. The Hommer Foundation recently notified the library that they will continue their charitable donations and are now accepting applications. The library has sent a grant request letter.

**New Business** - Discussion took place on participating in the America250 celebration. It was suggested to possibly team up with both the Barrett Township Historical Society and the Paradise Township Historical Society and form a joint committee. Julie Niering stated she would be interested in participating. Discussion also took place about including America250 in the upcoming library budget.

**Old Business** – Mike Stein discussed the annual shortfall of funds on the balance sheet before the library tax revenue comes in. In the past we have used grant money to cover the shortfall but would like to come up with another solution. Brette Fulton made a motion to table discussion until the September meeting, Maureen Siglin seconded and all were in favor.

Julie Niering asked about the status of the library directors recognition wall. Mary Ann asked Julie Niering and Maureen Siglin to suggest a date and they could all help to finish the research.

**Other Comments**- Julie Wynne asked if anyone remembered what had been done to celebrate the bicentennial. Discussion took place.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m. Julie Niering made the motion, Nancy Lewis second, and all were in favor.

The next meeting will be held Monday August 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Weiler Family Community Room with a virtual option.