

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2026

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

In Attendance: Mike Stein, President; Julie Wynne, Vice President; Richard Leist, Treasurer; Lisa Flanagan, Secretary. Trustees: Cindy Cook, Brette Fulton, Judi Jabara, Nancy Lewis, Julie Niering, Maureen Siglin, Darryl Speicher. Mary Ann Lewis, Library Director.

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

The minutes of the March 23, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Brette Fulton made a motion to approve the minutes. Julie Wynne seconded, and all were in favor. Richard Leist abstained since he was not in attendance at the March meeting.

Treasure's Report - Richard Leist reported that the Library is financially solid. We are currently outperforming the budget. There was an increase in the state budget and the direct public support is higher. Our expenses are lower due to payroll and delayed grant purchases. The annual run rate for the Morgan Stanley grant investments is about \$2,600. Richard made a motion to restrict interest earned in grant accounts to be used for the purpose for which the grant was received. Julie Wynne seconded and all were in favor.

Library Director's Report - There was a nice uptick in visitors during March due to some interesting programs that were well attended. More patrons were using the computers, especially during tax season. The Barrett Township Historical Society presentation, the Red Cross Blood Drive, and the art reception for Mike Stein's photography exhibit brought both new and familiar people to the Library.

Mary Ann enjoyed an opportunity to be a guest speaker for a college career class online. She spoke on library career trajectory and roles those who work in a public library may have. Mary Ann attended a Tri District Resource Sharing Meeting. We share materials among 28 libraries in the Lehigh Valley Pocono region. The number of items our patrons can access is 1,460,906. The Ballot Box has been delivered to the library for the May elections. Library Goodness this month was reading what patrons wrote on sticky notes to display what joy the library brings to them. Positive comments centered around kind and friendly staff and learning new things from our various resources.

Circulation and Programs: Circulation Stats show that we are back on track. Numbers are higher than the past few months as well as March of last year. March programs were well attended, particularly children's programs. The Mushroom Cultivation program, Keyboarding, Shakespeare Group, and Book Clubs were popular programs as well. We are looking forward to offering a "healthy eating" nutrition class and Forest Bathing at Ice Lake in May.

Building Report: Karl Forssell replaced the auto flush mechanism in the men's room with a handle flush. The porch railings need to be repainted. Mary Ann will reach out to the person who painted them in the past. If they are unable to do it, Darryl offered to paint the railings for us.

Fundraising - The current Friends Letter donation to date is \$23,987.87 which is ahead of last year's total by \$2,407.75 Books and Bubbly is scheduled for June 19. Invitations to host a station have been sent. Dan Lane has agreed to provide the music again this year. LOL Comedy Night is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st. Darryl made a motion for us to participate in NEPA Gives in June. Nancy seconded and all were in favor. This is an online fundraiser in which donors choose to financially support organizations through Northeast PA during a 24 hour period.

Grants - The Hughes Foundation grant proposal has been submitted. We requested funds to purchase Children's books as well as storage containers and display racks for Children's program resources. The DF Hughes grant request includes two computers, a portable sound system, and educational materials for an interactive outdoor Children's Explorium; the grant application will be submitted this week. The Buck Hill Community Services Committee donated \$7,000 to the library.

Library 2034 Update: We have been emphasizing the library's tech resources in newsletters and other promotional resources. Library bookmarks list services we offer; tech help has been moved to the top of the list. Printed lists of children's and adult programs are now available at the front desk. Channel 13 highlighted the art reception for Mike Stein's photography. The photo of the Monroe County Library Directors' receiving proclamations for National Library Week is posted online. The video by Tina Tobin promoting our library was reposted during National Library Week.

Old Business - Maureen Siglin made progress on compiling the list of former library directors to be displayed on the Library Directors' Plaque. Once we confirm the dates some of the people served as director, the project will be complete. Julie Niering will contact Scott's Signs to confirm they can do the plaque.

Any Other Business - Darryl shared information about Monroe County's America250 historical trail. Prizes will be awarded to those who visit a certain number of locations. The library and the Cresco Station are included on the trail. Dr. Sarah J. Cornell will speak about Pennsylvania women during the Revolution at the next Barrett Historical Society meeting, 7pm, May 15, at the library.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:34. Lisa Flanagan made a motion and Nancy Lewis seconded. All were in favor.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026.