

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2026

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

In Attendance: Julie Wynne, Vice President; Richard Leist, Treasurer; Lisa Flanagan, Secretary. Trustees: Brette Fulton, Judi Jabara, Nancy Lewis, Darryl Speicher. Mary Ann Lewis, Library Director. Julie Niering attended via Zoom. Cindy Cook, Maureen Siglin, and Mike Stein, President, were not present.

Julie Wynne called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

The minutes of the May 26, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Judi Jabara made a motion to approve the minutes. Brette Fulton seconded, and all were in favor.

Treasure's Report - Richard Leist reported that revenues are over budget and they are favorable to last year. We've had very strong investment results. Richard met with Jeff Weeks from Morgan Stanley and discussed our investments. Jeff is taking prudent steps to position the portfolio in a way that will protect us if need be. Nancy Lewis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Darryl Speicher seconded it. All were in favor. Richard Leist abstained.

Library Director's Report - Overall, the general Library stats are looking good. The number of visitors is up from last month. The number of patrons using computers is up as well. Mary Ann spoke about recent successful events that brought people to the library including a Red Cross Blood Drive and Bev Abel's artwork display in the community room.

The circulation stats for May totaled 3,311 which are higher than the previous month and higher than last year at this time. We recently started offering PlayAways for children. We only had them for adults and now are happy to offer this option for children to enjoy this type of audio book as well.

The programs in May went very well. A highlight was Chelsea's Family Science program. Patrons made herbal planters. Part of the session took place outside in the reading area and part was indoors. The children learned how to plant and everyone went home with a small pot of various herbs. Another big hit was the Women's Health Book Club which started at the end of May. There will be 3 sessions focusing on menopause. There were 2 leaders, 10 participants and great discussions. Summer Reading programs kicked off this week. Children came to the Library to decorate their tote bags and got materials for completing the program by the end of the summer. A major program we are looking forward to is the America250 celebration on August 22.

Building Report: The geothermal unit in the Community Room, the largest of the units, is not working. Either we replace the compressor or replace the whole unit. After much discussion, Lisa Flanagan made a motion to replace the unit for a cost of about \$24,000 to be installed in 3-4 weeks time. Richard Leist seconded and all were in favor.

MaryAnn will contact a professional painter to update the porch railings. Darryl agreed to take care of painting the post for the handicap door opener and the bike rack.

Fundraising - The grand total for the 2025-26 Friends Letter donations is \$24,287.33 from 229 donors. This amount is ahead of last year's total by \$2,707.14 with 14 more donors than last year. The new Friends Letter is ready and volunteers will begin stuffing envelopes shortly. 8 donors gave \$476 to our Library through NEPA Gives. Our net profit is \$276 after the registration fee is deducted. Books and Bubbly was a success, taking in \$3,700 in profits. More tickets were sold than last year. We had about 115 people in attendance including library staff, volunteers, and those hosting stations. Planning is well underway for LOL Comedy Night. This event is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st.

Grants - Both Hughes Grants arrived. The Library was given the full amount in each of the proposals. Mary Ann already started purchasing some of the items requested, including the sound system.

America250 Update - Mary Ann said the Barrett Township Historical Society event on June 14th at the Train Station was a lot of fun. Mary Ann and Chelsea had a blast helping with the children's games. It was very well organized. The Library book display in July will have an American History theme.

Library 2034 Update: Librarians from the University of Scranton will do an AI presentation for the public after October. Mary Ann asked us to generate some questions so she can narrow down the topic appropriately.

Old Business - This is also the Goodness Story for June. A woman came into the Library to let Mary Ann know that her mother was a former library director in the early 1960's. She knew we were looking for information to finalize a display to recognize these leaders on the Library Directors' Plaque. She told Mary Ann stories about her mom, reminiscing about time she spent in the library as a little girl and mentioned a newspaper article about the Library featuring her mother. She also inquired about the Name a Shelf dedication process. Mary Ann was able to find the article and when speaking to the woman later, she dedicated a section of shelves for her mom. Interesting people are always popping in our library. How special it is when we get a chance to have a conversation like this.

Julie Niering reported that someone from Scott Signs may be stopping in to see if they can color-match the panel on the Donor's Wall for the Library Director's plaque.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m. after Lisa Flanagan made a motion and Judi Jabara seconded. All were in favor.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.