

Bethlehem Public Library Trustee Minutes – 4/14/2025

Members Present: Doug Harman, Nora Clark, Len Grubbs, Stephen Dignazio, Lisa Ffrench, Melissa Smith, Barbara Szeidler

Absent: Sara Plumley

Librarian Present: Laura Clerkin

Public Present: Sally Syren

Meeting Commenced at 6:58pm

Meeting Minutes

Lisa made a motion to accept the March minutes as written, with Nora seconding. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Currently, we are \$205 favorable. With regard to the health insurance difference of \$3,350 talked about last month, Doug spoke with Mary Moritz, and the town will absorb the entire amount into their budget. We will have to adjust the line in the budget next year. Lisa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Nora. The motion passed.

Old Business

Introductions were made by each person present. Melissa introduced herself, saying she was new to town and wanted to get involved with the library. Sally introduced herself, saying she was a former trustee, and had recently moved back to Bethlehem.

New Business

None.

Committees

HR – Nothing to report.

Buildings and Grounds – Nothing to report.

Finance – Donations in the past month, totaling \$400 were received. There are no conditions on the funds. Len made a motion to approve, seconded by Nora. Motion passed unanimously.

Laura received word that the library has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association. Len said there would need to be a notice of meeting to accept since the amount is over \$5,000. Laura will let trustees know when the money arrives.

Bylaws and Policies – the committee met to discuss pending legislation regarding HB273 – relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records. This has passed the house; the senate hearing is April 24th. The committee felt this should be tabled until we know if the bill is actually going to pass.

Technology – Nothing to report.

Librarian's Report

Kami attended the Children's Literacy Foundation (CliF) conference; she received a scholarship for the attendance fee. Laura is applying for their Rural Library Grant, which would provide free books to the public and school library, as well as programming.

Marc Morgan of Casella discussed with Laura the possibility of donating children's books related to waste and recycling. He also offered to run a program at the library on how to build a backyard compost bin. After discussion, a vote to accept was 4 in favor, 3 opposed to accept an anonymous donation with no publicity.

Election of Officers and Committee Assignments

Barbara made a motion to keep the current slate of officers, with Lisa seconding. Motion passed, with Doug abstaining.

Chairman: Doug Harman

Vice Chairman: Nora Clark

Treasurer: Len Grubbs

Melissa volunteered to become the Secretary. Barbara made a motion to accept, Lisa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Committees:

HR: Barbara and Sara

Building & Grounds: Lisa and Nora

Finance: Len, Nora, and Stephen

Bylaws: Lisa and Barbara

Technology: Melissa and Barbara volunteered to help if needed; this committee will be ad hoc.

Barbara made a motion to accept the committees, Nora seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tana's resignation in February leaves an open trustee position. Sally Syren is interested in rejoining the board. Nora made a motion to put Sally's name forward to the Select Board, seconded by Lisa. Motion passed unanimously. Laura will contact Mary Moritz about this being on the next Select Board agenda.

Barbara received a scholarship to go the NHLTA conference in May. She has gone before, and highly recommends it.

Len made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40, with Nora seconding; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Laura Clerkin