

MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2025, MEETING OF
THE BERNARDSVILLE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bernardsville Library Foundation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 06:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Bernardsville Library.

The following trustees were in attendance: Patrice Cummings, Chair; Jamie Bertoni; Debbie Heimerl; Justin Lynch; Shikha Mayer; Michael Myers; Anne Reilly; and Roni Larini joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m. via zoom. Trustees Madelyn English and Colleen Mason were absent. Liaisons present were Mimi Brown representing Library Director Fran Daley, Carolyn Duff, Friends of the Library representative, and Robert Re, Bernardsville Library Board of Trustees.

1. WELCOME. Chair Cummings called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The Bernardsville Library Foundation trustees and liaisons were warmly welcomed to the meeting.
2. MINUTES OF THE APRIL, 8, 2025 MEETING. The April 2025 minutes were emailed to the trustees prior to the May 13, 2025, meeting. Chair Cummings requested an amendment to the Minutes regarding the adjournment of the Bernardsville Library Foundation. Hearing no further questions or comments, Secretary Reilly moved that the April 2025 Minutes be approved as amended and Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion. A vote was conducted and the April 8, 2025 BLF Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT. The April 2025 Monthly Financial Reports and 2024 Tax Forms were emailed to the trustees prior to the May 13, 2025 meeting. Treasurer Myers requested that all trustees review the 2024 Tax Forms and contact him with questions and comments by Tuesday, May 20, 2025. All trustees are to inform Treasurer Myers of their approval of the tax documents or not so that they can be filed. Chair Cummings requested that all trustees confirm with Treasurer Myers that they have reviewed the tax documents even if there are no comments or questions so that Mr. Myers knows that all trustees have reviewed the tax forms. Ms. Bertoni has already reached out to Treasurer Myers with her comments.

Treasurer Myers reviewed the April 2025 Monthly Financial Reports. Treasurer Myers moved that the April 2025 Monthly Financial Reports be approved as presented. Ms. Heimerl seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Secretary Reilly conducted a roll call vote and the Monthly Financial Reports were approved unanimously as presented.

Chair Cummings, after reviewing the reports, moved that \$15,000.00 be transferred from the Short-term Investment Account to the Endowment. Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Secretary Reilly conducted a roll call vote and the motion was approved unanimously as presented.

4. LIBRARY UPDATE – DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Ms. Brown presented the Library Update on behalf of Library Director, Ms. Daley. The Borough of Bernardsville passed the budget in April and the full library request was funded. Ms. Daley thanked the Foundation for their advocacy with neighbors and government representatives. The library has secured a new vendor and the collection book and media orders have been fulfilled. The Book Drop has been relocated closer to the library's

main doors. Summer Reading will kick off on June 14, 2025. Adults are encouraged to participate, log their reading minutes and help boost the summer reading program on Read Squared. Summer Reading ends August 20, 2025. Director Daley requested that the BLF meet via zoom for the June 10, 2025 meeting due to the re-imagining of the library. The BLF agreed to this request. A post card will be sent out soon sharing information regarding the capital improvements and some disruptions to normal library use in June. The re-imagining is underway and the library is lighter and brighter with LED lighting from Generations Electrical and a fresh coat of paint by Grafas. Both vendors were great to work with. Federal funding of the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) continue to be in jeopardy and several grants to the State Library of NJ have been cancelled. This will impact statewide delivery through LibraryLinkNJ, the Talking Book and Braille Center in Trenton, NJ, electronic database access that the New Jersey State Library provides through Jersey Clicks, etc. Director Daley is currently working the library staff, The Friends of the Library, the Somerset Hills School district and the Somerset County Food Bank to help provide a summer lunch program for those eligible for reduced and free lunches during the school year. Please contact Ms. Daley with any questions.

5. LIAISONS.

Bernardsville Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Re. reported that the Bernardsville Borough budget passed with the full library funding request intact. The funding will provide for extended hours that were cut during the COVID pandemic. Mr. Re reported that after a review of the current Book Drop location, and noting that the Book Drop had been hit and damaged five times over the years, a new location has been secured. The Board is working with Director Daley to support a free lunch program for financially disadvantaged students.

Friend of the Bernardsville Library. Ms. Duff reported on the Summer Lunch Program the Friends are pursuing for children eligible for free/reduced lunches during the school year. A Go Fund Me page is being created to help support this program. The Senior Breakfast will be held on June 6, 2025 from 10:00 am to noon at the Library. There are three Sunday concerts planned on May 18, June 1, and October 5, 2025. Summer Reading kicks off on June 14, 2025. The Tiny Art Show will occur again September through October 2025. An artist's reception is planned for October, 26, 2025. October 19th through 25th is NJ Friends of the Library Week. The Annual Appeal Letter is planned for November 1, 2025. Chair Cummings thanked the Friends of the Library Board for all of the wonderful programs they provide and fund and for their financial support of the Bernardsville Library.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT.

ANNUAL APPEAL COMMITTEE. Ms. Heimerl, Ms. Larini, and Ms. Mayer are continuing to work on the Annual Appeal Letter and the Response Card. The target mailing date is still in May 2025. The new format will reduce Annual Appeal Expenses with an estimated cost of \$2500.00 compared to the budgeted amount of \$3800.00. The committee decided against purchasing a new mailing list this year but a new list may need to be purchased next year.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE. Mr. Lynch reported that he has spoken with an

administrator at Kearny Bank and she was positive. She will help put Mr. Lynch in touch with the proper decision makers at Kearny Bank. Mr. Lynch will move forward with pursuing corporate sponsorship from Kearny Bank.

DONOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Ms. Brodsky, Ms. Larini, and Ms. Mason met to discuss Donor Development and discussed the need for a Strategic Plan. Chair Cummings announced she would like to host another Gratitude Event for Major Donors in September 2025 at the Library showcasing the capital improvements at the Library. Chair Cummings also reported she briefly discussed Foundation membership as Honorary Chairs for Mr. and Ms. Quick with Mr. Les Quick. The conversation will continue.

EVENTS COMMITTEE - LIBRARY GIVING DAY. Chair Cummings announced that \$20,000.000 was raised during Library Giving Day.

INVESTMENT/FINANCE COMMITTEE. The Joint Investment and Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. Chair Cummings is discussing membership with two potential board members and one is a realtor.

7. CORRESPONDENCE. None.
8. OLD BUSINESS. None.
9. NEW BUSINESS. Chair Cummings would like to host a farewell event for Julie Langenauer. Plan for a pot luck, backyard event, at Chair Cummings home on Thursday, June 12th or 19th.
10. NEXT MEETING. Tuesday, June 10, 2025 6:30 p.m. via zoom.
11. ADJOURNMENT. Liaisons to the Foundation were thanked for their participation and were excused from the regular monthly meeting at 7:32 p.m. and the Trustees of the Foundation went into Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. and came out of Executive Session at 7:45. The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:45.