

The mission of the Susquehanna County Historical society and Free Library Association is to support the appreciation and preservation of local history, and to nourish the joy of reading, the discovery of ideas and the power of information

Board Meeting March 24, 2025

Agenda

The meeting was held at the Forest City Borough Council Meeting Room , 535 Main Street, Forest City, PA

Call to Order and welcome : At 6:02 by , President, Will Squier

Secretary: Dawn Augenti

Attendees: Will Squier President, Fred Cicillioni Vice-President

Aaron Boyce, Steve Hinds Dawn Augenti, Lorraine Chidester, Ginny Hollister, Craig Benson and Eric Powers, Angie Zick and Eileen Baessler

The Board Meeting was opened with a public comment period. * *The speakers and comments will follow at the end of the minutes. **** The public had been given sixty copies of the Meeting Agenda, The Motions regarding the Circulation Policy and former Privacy and Confidentiality of Library Records Policy and the proposed re-drafted Susquehanna County Library Confidentiality of Library Records policy.***

Motion to approve Minutes of the February ____2025 Board Meeting

1st: Fred Cicilioni 2nd: Craig Benson

All in favor, so moved

Motion to approve the written reports. For the February ____, 2025 meeting

1st Lorraine Chidester 2nd Steve Hinds All in favor, so moved.

Forest City Branch Library Report:

Report by Katherine Cruz, Branch Librarian

Katherine reported on the “Love your Library Auction.” Dunn and Madden Auctioneers and Katherine hosted an auction fundraiser for the libraries. The proceeds of the auction totaled \$4,084.25. The proceeds will be distributed among the four libraries to be used for children’s programs. The Forest City Library will be hosting several upcoming events including a reptile program, a hunter/trapper course by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, their Lego Club and a Home Schooling seminar in May. They will also be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny and distributing 100 children’s Easter books to the children provided by local donors.

Review of Treasurer’s Report by Steve Hinds, Treasurer.

Please see attached

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report.

1st Eric Powers 2nd Angie Zick Yes: _____ No: _____ so moved.

Fundraising, Lorraine Chidester:

We are registered to participate with NEPA Gives. The region's largest 24-hour giving event happening on June 5-6.

Blueberry Festival: August 1st & 2nd, always looking for volunteers

Old Business

Motion to: Take from the table "Motion to reinstate former Circulation Policy and former Privacy and Confidentiality of Library Records Policy that were both terminated and replaced with the current policies at the September 2023 Board meeting, then further review these policies."

Motion: Fred Cicillioni Second: Steve Hinds

Approve: Yes: Craig Benson, Dawn Augenti, Eric Powers, Fred Cicillioni, Lorriane Chidester, Steve Hinds, Will Squier.

No: Eileen Baessler, Ginny Hollister

Amend motion to read: Motion to adopt Susquehanna County Library Confidentiality of Library Records Policy provided to the SCHS&FLA Board by the District CEO, Scott Thomas and the District liaison, Michele Legate and to leave the current Circulation policy unchanged.

Motion : Fred Cicillioni Second: Craig Benson

Approve: Yes: Craig Benson, Dawn Augenti, Eric Powers, Fred Cicillioni, Lorriane Chidester, Steve Hinds, Will Squier.

No: Eileen Baessler, Ginny Hollister

Attached: Susquehanna County Library Confidentiality of Library Records Policy

New Business

Motion to move \$8,000 in funds from the FNB Pottery account to our Peoples Security operating account. We have \$10,039.22 in the FNB "Pottery" Account. This represents more than 2 years' worth of funds given to us by local potters from the sale of their Pottery crafts in the Spring and Fall. We received 15% of the sales.

Discussion: : Fred Cicillioni asked why all of the money was not being moved. Lorraine explained that there was one outstanding uncashed check.

Motion: Steve Hinds Second: Craig Benson

Motion to move Approximately \$8,952.75 from our FNB account Visions Restricted account per the September 16, 2024 board meeting decision.

Discussion: Eric Powers asked for a discussion. Lorraine explained the restricted money associated with the Branch Libraries and that it was to be moved in September of 2024 after a discussion of the Board at that meeting. It was never done.

Each branch has been given personal donations with specific spending criteria. Each branch will know what they have for their use and there will be an accounting of expenditures. Since the County has asked for a separation of the accounts of each library this will be beneficial.

Motion: Steve Hinds Second: Craig Benson

Motion to purchase moveable storage shelving system for the Historical Society at a cost of \$6,811.23. The funds for this purchase have been provided by a grant from PHMS.

Discussion: Please see attached estimate from Uline. Fred uses Uline and has contacted them hoping to get a better discount. Also noting the tax exempt status.

Motion: Craig Benson Second: Lorraine Chidester

Motion to accept the Bid from Benedict Construction to repair the front steps of the Historical Society building. Pricing is a range of \$15,799 to \$29,848. The difference in cost would be for full stair replacement (see attached bid). Benedict construction is highly recommended. This project has been in the works since last spring.

Discussion: Please see attached estimate. Discussion of price difference for 1. Above ground depending on what is uncovered once they start the project and 2. To include below ground work. Jack Taylor has given his time and expertise in this project. Bids have been request since last year and only one written bid and one verbal bid have been received. Steve had received a donation of the bluestone treads, and they would like to cut the treads. Benedict construction is hoping to start the project in May which will be in line with our grant restrictions.

Motion: Ginny Hollister Second: Angie Zick
Any other New Business?

Next Meeting: April 28, 2025 6:00pm, Susquehanna Branch Library

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Angie Zick Second: Aaron Boyce

Meeting Adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Public comment: There was open hostility from some of the audience for the 15 minute comment time. SPEAKERS:

Joan Redding: Was looking for the minutes. An audience member explained that they would not be available until they were accepted at the Board Meeting.

Kris Ely: Stated #2 makes it against state law. In Chester County you have to bring the child. Bucks County, Carmichael Library, Lancaster City all follow the same policy. Will goes to a Christian Nationalist organization for advice on the policy. You have lost two fundraisers. Do you have new Board members? Your lack of transparency has lost the confidence of the public. Called for Will to resign.

Susan English, Esquire: What has taken place since December does not pass the smell test. Avoid the appearance of impropriety. Do you realize this association is supported by this community? You have alienated the people who have supported you. If there was a legitimate reason to terminate the Administrator notice should have been given and a vote taken. Why are you taking away the parents' rights? It is against state law if you do not hire a librarian. You have lost two fundraisers, the pottery sale and the lottery. Why would you want people to support your organization?

Bruce Baessler: Has a library card. The potters from Binghamton are not supporting you with their fundraiser. The money will be going to the VFW.

Tim Madden: Associate and auctioneer at Dunn and Madden Auctions. Also, a pastor in his church. Alienation is not one-sided. Parishioners that would not come into the library with the previous policy have raised thousands for the support of the library. He has worked in mental health for ten years. Everyone has made this one topic an issue. He thanked the Board for their work and acknowledged the difficulty of their decisions.

Louise Cator: Uses the Forest City library extensively. Is supportive of what was done. Children are the responsibility of the parents, not the State, not the library. We are Susquehanna County not Bucks County. Susquehanna County should be able to do what they think is best for their communities.

Barbara Scott: Volunteers at the library. This is a public meeting and the venue should have been changed due the elevator not working and the required use of the stairs. The public should be able to come. The current President of the United States wants to defund libraries. She stated that she is an atheist. She supports the library and feels she should have the books open to her. She is concerned about the future funding of the library.

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Nat Bowman: Does not understand what children are able to take out of the library. Will said this point has previously been made.

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