

TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES
Minutes of the Board of Trustees (BoT)
Thursday, February 27, 2025
7:00 PM at Tredyffrin Library

The meeting dates for the year were advertised in the 12/13/2024 issue of Daily Local. The meeting date for January was published on the Township e-newsletter on 12/31/24. The agenda was posted on the Library website 1/21/2025 and at the main entrance to the Library 1/21/2025. Copies of the agenda were made available for the public in attendance at the meeting.

Presiding: Rob Croner, President

Board Members Present (constituting a quorum):

Rob Rose, Treasurer
Nancy Talley
Marianne Murphy
Stacy Stone
Rebecca Shultz Thorpe

In Attendance:

Abby Cengel, Head Librarian, Paoli
Sarah Roeske, Children & Youth Services Librarian, Paoli
Mallory Hoffman, Director of Libraries
Valerie Green, Assistant Director & Head of Technical Services
Murph Wysoki, Supervisor, Tredyffrin Township Board of Supervisors
Praveen Chelli, prospective board member
Mark Dixon, Tredyffrin Township Historical Commission liaison

Absent:

Kristin Dormuth, Secretary
Peggy McGarrity
KS Bhaskar, Supervisor, Tredyffrin Township Board of Supervisors and Library liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm by Mr. Croner, President. Preceding the Call to Order, the Board and invited guests participated in a brief tour of the Paoli Library facility led by Ms. Cengel.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There is one opening on the Board of Trustees. Interested parties can contact Mallory Hoffman or Rob Croner, or apply online.
- Two openings remain on the Foundation Board. Contact Mallory Hoffman, Rob Croner, or James Kim with suggestions.

An orientation date for all board members is scheduled for the Tredyffrin Library on March 27.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

None.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of the agenda was unanimously approved.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the January 23rd 2025 meeting were unanimously approved

6. REPORTS

Director's Report – Mallory Hoffman

- The library leadership team spent significant time in January working on the annual PA state report which is due to the Chester County Library System by the end of February. The Board President and Treasurer signed off on the report, as required and the deadline was met.
- The new outside book drops are installed (and the old drops removed) thanks to the assistance of the Tredyffrin Township Building maintenance staff. The new drops, while outside, are under roof cover and provide a safer and more protective drop off for library materials.
- The Chester County Legislative Breakfast is on Friday, April 4th. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Paoli Library Report – Abby Cengel

- Ms. Cengel reported that Paoli has launched its Library of Things. Among items available are a metal detector, portable document scanner, binoculars, and Yoto player and cards. Materials may be checked out on a first come-first served basis at Paoli.
- A meeting was held to discuss the Paoli Friends. Participants included members of the library leadership team along with members of the Tredyffrin Library Friends group and the remaining member of the Paoli Friends group. It was determined that merging the two Friends groups is not feasible. The Paoli Friends group will continue to exist as an independent entity and will explore alternative fund raising and member recruitment strategies.
- The library hosted a staff training session of February 14th. Rebecca Manual from Chester County Library provided an excellent overview of basic reference services.

Friends of Tredyffrin Public Library

- Although Ms. Currigan was absent from the meeting, she sent information reporting that there was a successful community book donation day on February 22nd and was well attended by community residents. Ms. Currigan thanked the Red Fox volunteers and Conestoga Key Club students for their assistance.
- The next quarterly Red Fox book sale is scheduled for March 14-16.

7. Committees

- Ms. Stone reported that the Policy subcommittee met via Zoom on February 20th. The committee revisited and finalized a draft of the Collection Development Policy. The draft

will be distributed to the full Board ahead of the March 27th meeting for discussion at that meeting.

- Ms. Murphy reported that she will need to step down from her role as Chair of the Planning committee due to her upcoming resignation from the library board. There are no updates from the Committee since the January meeting. Mr. Croner commented that he will assume responsibilities for the chair role on an interim basis and asked any Board members who may be interested in serving on the Planning committee to please notify him or Ms. Hoffman.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Treasurer's Report - Rob Rose

- Mr. Rose provided an update on the January 2025 financial results for Tredyffrin and Paoli libraries. Results are trending according to plan.
- In follow up to the December board vote approving the transfer of some surplus budget funds to Tredyffrin Township for investment in PLGIT accounts, Mr. Rose and Ms. Hoffman reported this process will be coordinated with Joe DiRocco, Township COO, in March.

Fundraiser's Report – Rachel Kramer

- Although Ms. Kramer was absent from the meeting, she provided a monthly fundraising report. The 2024 Donor Wall panels are expected to be installed in March. Meetings were held with several potential major gift donors to discuss 2025 donation plans.
- The Minigolf event is scheduled for November 7th & 8th 2025.
- As noted previously, there will be a Board Orientation Meeting prior to the Board Meeting. On March 27th. The Orientation will begin at 5pm promptly.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- Ms. Hoffman reported Beverly Michaels has been removed from the Bank of America account for Paoli Library and Ms. Hoffman has been added. Library leadership is working with Bank of America to also add Ms. Cengel to the account.
- Regarding library renovations, Ms. Hoffman reported on a discussion she had with Joe DiRocco, Township COO, in which he indicated the price to build a new library facility exceeds the Township's budget capacity. Mr. Wysoki, as a member of the Board of Supervisors, also concurred with this assessment. The Township is currently studying the feasibility of substantial renovations and/or upgrades to the existing Tredyffrin building and is seeking cost proposals. Mr. DiRocco noted that he is open to attending a future BOT meeting to discuss this topic in more detail and Ms. Hoffman will work to confirm a date with Mr. DiRocco, with a tentative target of the April BOT meeting.
- Mr. Croner formally welcomed Rebekka (Bekka) Schultz Thorpe to the Library board, noting the February meeting was Bekka's first official meeting.
- Praveen Chelli, a community resident, introduced himself and expressed his interest to be considered for the vacant opening on the Board. The Board then had the opportunity to question Mr. Chelli about his interest. Mr. Chelli subsequently was excused from the meeting and the Board discussed his candidacy. Mr. Croner reported that he had conversations with both Leigh Anne Neclerio (who attended the January board meeting) and Mr. Chelli regarding their interests in the library board role along with the Foundation board opportunities. In this conversation, Ms. Neclerio expressed an

interest in being considered for the Foundation board as her preference. With this information, the Board discussed Mr. Chelli's candidacy and voted to nominate him to fill the open Board role. Mr. Chelli was invited back into the meeting and informed of this decision. Ms. Hoffman will coordinate with the Township to have Mr. Chelli attend a Board of Supervisors meeting where he will be formally approved.

- The Board discussed proposed revisions to the By-laws for the BOT. In particular, it was noted the suggestion by Ms. Hoffman to move the December meeting into November – potentially the 3rd Thursday in November – to help facilitate the annual budget process. Other potential revisions regarding quorum requirements and executive session guidelines were discussed. Mr. Croner indicated the feedback will be reviewed by the Policy committee and a revised draft of the By-laws will be submitted to the Board for approval at the March meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Stacy Stone expressed her interest in filling the role of Vice President of the BOT (vacated by Nancy Talley). The Board voted to confirm Ms. Stone for this role and thanked her for her interest.
- Stacy Stone also expressed her interest in filling the SAC (System Advisory Council) Representative (also vacated by Nancy Talley). The Board again thanked Ms. Stone for her interest and voted to confirm her as the SAC Representative.
- Ms. Murphy confirmed her decision to resign from the Board; she had communicated this to the full board via email prior to the meeting and her reason for the resignation is she is moving outside of Willistown Township. Mr. Croner thanked Ms. Murphy for her many contributions while serving on the board and these sentiments were echoed by all Board members. Ms. Murphy's seat is one of the two board seats that are reserved for Willistown Township residents and Ms. Hoffman will work with the Board of Supervisors to ensure Willistown Township submits nominations to replace Ms. Murphy.
- Mr. Croner reported that he and Ms. Hoffman met in mid-February with Rob Williams, Chair of the Tredyffrin Township Historical Commission. Mr. Williams discussed preliminary plans being developed by the Township for the semi quincentennial celebration of the USA's 250th anniversary in 2026. Mr. Williams plans to attend a board meeting later in the year to discuss the plans in greater detail and how the libraries may get involved.

10. TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

Murph Wysocki attended February's meeting, as the Board of Supervisors representative, as Mr. Bhaskar was in India.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.
- Next meeting: March 27th @ 7:30 pm at Tredyffrin Library (following the Library orientation session at 5pm).