



## Free Library of Northampton Township

### Library Board Meeting

May 14, 2026

**Board Members Present:** Larry Blumenthal (President), Eleanora Rosso (Vice President), Chip Heim, Charles Beem, Spyros Stavrakas

**Staff Present:** Wayne Lahr (Library Director), Denise Bierach (Circulation Manager), Amy Wardle (Asst. Director), Jean Ladden (staff)

**Citizens Present:** Paula Gasper (Supervisor Liaison); Adam Gilbert-Cole (BCFL District Consultant)

#### Call to Order

President called the meeting to order at 6:28 PM.

#### Reading of Library Mission and Vision Statement

Charles Beem read the Mission and Vision Statements.

#### Approval of March Minutes

The Board approved the April 2026 Minutes unanimously.

#### Library Director Report

The Director distributed his monthly report in advance of the meeting. Discussion items:

- Attendance at Friends Second Saturday event on 5/9 was 120 for Elvis impersonator, Jeff Krick; outstanding turnout;
- As a result of sharing some Program Surveys information, brief discussion ensued regarding the large amount of attendees stating they found the program information on the website (almost 60%) while email was less than 20%; our weekly email blasts open rate is normally at 45% and above, which is very good;
- All Carpets in the building have been cleaned;
- Test Proctoring service continues to grow, on pace to meet or exceed 2019's high of 273;
- On Thursday, 10/22, Lenape Valley Foundation will be offering Mental Health First Aid Training to the staff during FLNT's 2026 Staff In-Service Day.
- Discussion around Growing Libraries Orientation Zoom call held on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Adam offered that BCFL is in early stages of identifying similar vendors to provide marketing support data;

### **Policy Update: Unattended Child Policy**

Reviewed proposed revisions. No concerns. The Library Board motioned to approve the update.

### **Library By-Laws Update**

Proposed revision was approved unanimously to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

### **Doylestown District Consultant – Adam Gilbert-Cole**

- Adam introduced himself. He's the BCFL District Consultant and is available to the Library Director and Board members for advice and counsel.
- The annual Leadership Retreat for Library Directors and Board Members will be held October 10, 2026.
- We had a discussion around information sharing among county libraries. Currently, there is a process to share information between Youth Services librarians and Adam hopes to expand that to other types of information such as programming, etc.

### **Discussion - Strategic Plan, Priority #4 – Contemporary Facilities**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026**

The director provided a document outlining the various objectives of Priority Four and reviewed what has been accomplished from September 2023 - March 2026.

Discussion of the summary document revolved around:

- Does it make sense to uncouple the exterior development in order to get a short-term accomplishment and expand library services and deliver those services in a different way consistent with the goals of the Strategic Plan?
- Next steps include presenting the Visioning Study Final Report, prepared by OPN Architects, to the Township Board of Supervisors. In addition, we discussed the idea of engaging a company who helps plan capital campaigns to review what services they provide. Wayne will set up information-gathering calls with a couple of firms for early June to which the Board will be invited to attend.

The Board decided they may need to spend more time considering what type of partnerships and purposes we need before moving forward with a specific plan and purpose.

It was felt by all Board members this discussion was worthwhile in understanding the progress that has been made to date and the areas still needing to be addressed. Future discussion topics and dates are:

**Thursday, June 11**

Priority 3: Effective Communications

Chair: Jessica Freundel

Board: Larry; Staff: Wayne, Jean, Michelle, Amy, Kathleen

### **Public Comment**

None

### **For the Good of the Order / Miscellaneous**

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eleanora K. Rosso*

5/14/26

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Eleanora K. Rosso, Vice-Chair, for Janet Braker, Secretary