Free Library of Northampton Township

Library Board Meeting

October 8, 2026

Board Members Present: Larry Blumenthal (President), Jessica Freundel (Treasurer), Janet Braker (Secretary), Charles Beem, Chip Heim, Spyros Stavrakas

Staff Present: Wayne Lahr (Library Director)

Citizens Present: Paula Gasper, BOS Liaison

Call to Order: President called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Reading of Library Mission and Vision Statement

Larry Blumenthal read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Approval of September 2026 minutes

The Board approved the Minutes unanimously.

Library Director Report

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

Discussion items:

- It was noted that we had a presence at 2026 Northampton Day on Sunday, 10/4. Our highlighters are popular items for giveaways. Rainy weather shortened the hours of the event. Board member Beem participated in the event as well.
- The Library Board officer positions will be discussed at November meeting. Currently, Freundel will need to be replaced as Treasurer due to term expiration. Both Blumenthal and Stavrakas terms on the Board expire at the end of the year. The Township administration will contact them regarding their interest in continuing to serve.
- Township Administration has approved including $60,000 to fund a Capital Campaign Readiness Study in the 2027 Budget. It will be included in the November Budget Workshop for the Board of Supervisors. Paula Gasper's liaison report for the October meeting will also mention it. The Director may be asked to present information on an overview of our actions to date during the BOS Meeting sometime in the 1st quarter of 2027.
- Saturday, 10/10, is the Bucks County Library District Leadership Retreat in Doylestown. The Director, Blumenthal, Freundel, Beem, and Stavrakas are expected to be in attendance.

- We are working towards the installation of a new security camera system. Currently, it is expected to include 32 cameras throughout the campus. The director worked with Public Works' Facilities Manager to have them placed properly in key positions on the grounds. Pending painting projects were also discussed and color schemes determined to include to brand colors. There will also be upgrades performed in the facility's restrooms as well.
- Brand merchandise items have been bagged by staff and signage posted to show that this merchandise is available. Two sales were made on the first day. The library's online merchandise store will be made available again via the library's website on 10/19/26. The store will remain open 365/24/7 with orders downloaded 2x/month.

Discussion – Next Steps and Processes for Updating Strategic Plan for 2027 and beyond

Blumenthal opened the discussion on updating the Strategic Plan. He, Freundel, and the Director are working on Priority 3, Effective Communication. When they've completed the update, it will be presented to the remainder of the Board for further review. Rosso shared an draft update with the Director and Heim for Priority 4, Contemporary Facilities. They will work to complete it and follow the process of the work on Priority 3.

Discussion also centered around creating a report on the objectives accomplished from the original document which would most likely be available on our website along with the new Strategic Plan for 2027 and beyond.

The updated Strategic Plan will also be redesigned using the library's new branding strategy.

Public Comment: None

For the Good of the Order / Miscellaneous: None

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Braker

Janet Braker (Secretary) Date: 10/8/2026