

THE HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP FREE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Annual Association Meeting Minutes (Final)

DATE: MAY 18, 2022

ATTENDING: Phil Goldsmith, President	Sukrit Goswami, Director
Margaret Fox-Tully, Vice-President	Donna Reeves, Staff
Debbie Cella, Treasurer	Amy Moskovitz, Staff
Alyce Callison, Secretary	Mary Bear Shannon, Staff
Jim Brown, BOT	Patti Mungan, Staff
Scott Lowe, BOT	Mandy Folwell, Staff
Deb Morley, BOT	Julie Schultz, Staff

PUBLIC: 28 Community Members including other staff in attendance

The meeting was called to order by Phil Goldsmith, Board President, at 7:02 PM.

OPENING OF MEETING: All in attendance to the meeting were welcomed by Library President, Phil Goldsmith.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Annual Association Meeting. Proposed by Scott Lowe, 2nd by Deb Morley. Unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Cella

Debbie Cella reported on a comparison between the current fiscal year and the previous fiscal year financial reports. The Library's annual independent audit for 2021 agrees with all figures discussed in the financial reports.

The overall total assets of the Library in the previous year was approximately \$1,800,000. The largest asset is the cash balance which includes the capital campaign fund. The Library had a slight increase in revenue and decrease in expenses which produced an overall increase in profit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Phil Goldsmith

This is my fifth year of giving the president's message at our annual meeting. As I looked back at the prior ones, I realized how close we were on each message to resolving our building issue. And each year I was wrong for a variety of different reasons, so I've been reluctant to sing the same song again this year. But, since I am a believer in the law of averages and I am resilient, I've decided to sing it one more time, mainly because I believe the commissioners are dedicated to helping us deal with the long-time need to bring our library up to meet today and tomorrow's needs as other nearby local libraries have done.

The fits and starts of the past several years have not been because of lack of concern or priority but because we were always searching for the perfect answer. The best location, the best price, the best features and functions. The commissioners have been diligent and well intentioned in making sure we turned over every stone before we proceeded. But as we all know, every project has tradeoffs. A better location might cost too much; the right cost might come at the expense of state of the art technology or necessary features and functions. When we started this project, seven or eight years ago, the funds provided would have only allowed us to do necessary repairs and bring the library up to code. Then another opportunity at the Brookline School became available but the costs and other issues nixed that idea. In the meantime, we went back to the drawing board and came up with a new plan that would not only renovate and modernize our current facility but expand it by 5,000 square feet. Just when we thought we found the magic formula the zoning board rained on our parade despite the fact that there was no public objection to our expansion plan and the township, which actually owns this building, was in favor of it. Since then, new ideas have been floated and explored. And in the meantime we reached an agreement with the zoning board to allow us to proceed if certain conditions were met which we believe we will do.

At the end of the day, I think we all have come to appreciate that famous adage that perfection is the enemy of good. We were looking for the impossible perfect when we had in our midst a very good solution with a wonderful sight, strategically located between the high school and middle school. In essence, we are part of an educational campus. By adding 5,000 usable square feet, we are expanding our facility by 25 percent, certainly matching if not surpassing the size of other local neighborhood libraries. And yes, we have to add parking as the zoning board has made clear. That will be done.

So with some trepidation but with confidence, I am willing to say once again, we are about ready to get to real work. In fact, tomorrow we will meet with township officials to begin to do just that. There are still a lot that need to be done and issues to be resolved, such as how do we service the public when this building will be closed during construction. Other libraries have found a way and so will we. We are not ready to set a firm time table for when construction work will start and be concluded. We need to consult with our architects and others before we go public with a timeline. We are committed to communicating with all our stakeholders –neighbors, patrons and employees – in a timely forthright manner so there are no surprises as well as provide an avenue for your suggestions.

I believe when all is said and done, we will forget how long it took and instead we will bask in the glow of the wonderful modern library that will soon stand where we are today and serve our children and children's children for years to come.

Election of Board of Trustees Position – Alyce Callison and Emily Woodward each spoke for 3 minutes on their intent to serve on the Library Board. Alyce Callison was reelected by the Association to serve a 3-year term on the Library Board of Trustees.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Proposed by Margaret Fox-Tully, 2nd by Jim Brown. Unanimously approved.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:32 PM