



Library Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2025

Library Mission: To advance Derry Township through innovative programming, collections, and services that support the diversity of our community.

Present: Geoffrey Crout, John DeFrank, Cheryl Dellasega, Karen Golin (virtually), Alison Jacobine, Darby Valego

Absent: Dominic Giovanniello, Natalie Nutt, Jordan Yeagley

1. *Call to Order:* Geoffrey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. *Public Comment:* No members of the public were present
3. *Approval of Minutes:* John made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2025 Board of Library Directors meeting. Cheryl seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. *Reports of Representatives:*
 - a. *Friends of the Library:* Alison gave the report on Caroline's behalf. The Friends of the Library are preparing for the upcoming Pop-Up booksale on December 5 & 6. It was very successful last year and Alison will send around the SignUp Genius to board members with volunteer opportunities when it becomes available.
 - b. *Endowment Trust:* Darby reported that the Endowment's current valuation is at 3.8 million with an 11% increase in 2025. The Endowment updated their bylaws to remove mandatory board term limits at their most recent meeting. The board is larger than others and with required rotations off, it's difficult to find people to fill empty slots. It was changed to language that mirrors the Friends bylaws where board members are up for renewal every three years. Alison then presented data from the Endowment funded postcard marketing project. The postcard campaign was focused on current, lapsed and potential users in Derry Township and had very successful results with 1,103 total re-engaged lapsed users and an increase in new users from 2025.
5. *Old Business:* – No Old Business
6. *New Business:*
 - a. *2026 meeting dates for Board of Library Directors:* Alison presented the proposed dates for the Board of Library Director meetings in 2026 for approval. John made a motion to approve the dates and Cheryl seconded. The dates were approved unanimously.



7. *Financial Report:* Alison presented the financial report through October of 2025. She noted that the library anticipates coming in under budget this year.
8. *Communications:* Alison shared approval of the Plan for User of State Aid for the Hershey Public Library. She also shared photos from the recent Read to a Hockey Player events as well as photos of the top summer reader presentation at the Township Building. There were also positive comments and stories from patrons.
9. *Staff Reports:* Alison presented the data for September and October. In September, HPLU had a slow start but quickly picked up to become a very popular offering at the library. In October, the library's people counter was finally fixed and over 13,000 people visited the library in October. This could potentially be attributed to Chocolate Town Book Fest and the Hershey Art Association show but these are numbers only generally seen in the summer months!

Alison also presented a graphic created from data pulled from the 2022 IMLS annual report which is a report that the Hershey Public Library files with the state each year that is transferred to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. She compared the Hershey Public Library with a range of 42 libraries that serve a suburban population of 20,000-30,000 people (HPL serves a little under 25,000 residents of Derry Township). The library frequently placed in the top 10 of the libraries for circulation, number of books offered, amount of professional staff, and per-capita usage. Karen asked when the next set of statistics would be released. Alison said she wasn't sure but potentially in early 2026 we might see the 2023 statistics.

10. Natalie asked if there was a way to compare the data from the Hershey Public Library with other libraries in the area. Alison said there was a way to compare with similar size as well as local libraries and she would bring some comparisons to the next meeting.
11. *Adjournment:* Cheryl made a motion to adjourn; John seconded the motion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:25pm.

The next meeting of the Hershey Public Library Board of Directors is 7 PM on January 20, 2026