



Library Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2026

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

Present: Sandy Ballard, Bruno Bellucci, John DeFrank, Cheryl Dellasega, Karen Golin, Alison Jacobine, Beth Shaw, Jordon Yeagley

Absent: All present

1. *Call to Order:* Karen called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.
2. *Public Comment:* No public comment was made.
3. *Approval of Minutes:* Beth made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2026 meeting; Jordon seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. *Reports of Representatives:*
 - a. Friends of the Library: The 44th Annual FHPL Book Sale starts July 31st with preview night, then on August 1 the Federated Women's Club will present a bake sale until supplies are gone. Books will be discounted on the last two days of the event.

In 2025, the FHPL earned \$48,000 so we hope to make more in 2026. Alison will be circulating a SignUpGenius for those interested in volunteering.

- b. Endowment Trust: None

5. *Old Business:*
 - a. Gifts and Donations Policy changes were reviewed with a focus on language added by the attorney. Basically, donations of books can be removed but not replaced, collections may be accepted, and naming opportunities last for 10 years. After some discussion it was decided #12 and #3 were redundant so #12 is to be deleted. Sandy moved and Beth seconded. The change was accepted unanimously
 - b. Local Author Shelf Policy: A statement has been added prohibiting books or art using Generative AI. (A local bookstore has been seeing books that were completely AI including art.) Cheryl moved, Sandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Public Use of Age Specific Areas of the Hershey Public Library: This is a brand-new policy. The teen area is dedicated to teens starting at 2:30 PM during the school year and holidays. The space is one of the few areas



where the door can be closed for privacy. There was a discussion about the presence of adults in this area given that it houses the entire YA Collection resides. So far there haven't been problems, but there were questions about how patrons interested in YA would access the Teen Area. Wording was suggested to allow adults to be in the space while they "actively look" for YA books. After Sandy moved and Karen seconded a motion to this effect, and it was passed.

- d. Solicitation Policy: This is another new policy. Currently, there are limited collection areas but going forward to promote consistency, a person who wishes to solicit at the library will need to come before the board and a viewpoint neutral approval process used to grant permission. Language to that effect added; Sandy moved, John seconded and we all approved.
- e. A previous inquiry about FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) was clarified. This federal law protects the rights of students in schools receiving federal funds and would not apply to public libraries.

6. *New Business:*

- a. Overview of Capital Area District Library Services: To prepare the Board for an upcoming strategic planning conversation, the role of this organization which provides oversight to 22 libraries was explained. Dauphin County controls funds to achieve the goals of the program: ILL, Delivery, Training and Consulting. It provides Overdrive which supplies Libby. The 15 focus group questions that will be used in the visit were shared. This can be a good opportunity to find out about other libraries and trends. Further review will take place at our next meeting
- b. Selection of Board members to attend a get together with Endowment Board and Friends Board. We can send up to 3 members according to Sunshine Law; need one more. Volunteers to contact Alison or Karen.

7. *Financial Report:* There have been some unexpected expenses like AC repair and a payout for vacation time when a staff member resigned. A question about need for a policy regulating carryover was raised; Alison encourages employees to take their vacations. She is considering budget saving if needed as a backup for the 46% remaining.

8. *Communications:* None

9. *Report of the Library Director and/or Staff Reports:* No committee reports

10. The Director reported that print circulation is down slightly; she is thinking of purchasing multiple copies of popular books to promote entrée into series. 193



people attended Summer Reading Kickoff, digital circulation is robust and there is a steady flow of new borrowers.

There were questions about how library resources are acquired. We are required to spend a certain amount of budget on materials, and those materials belong to HPL. There was a discussion about digital vs. hard copy purchases. If HPL purchases on Libby HPL owns it and Hershey patrons get them first, unlike other Libby resources shared with Dauphin County.

We are seeing pre-COVID attendances at programs and now have Cloud Library which is just being launched. It will not replace Libby and will be accessed through an app. This is shared with Dauphin County and Middletown.

We have two new staff members at the desk: Anissa and Dominique. They work part-time in the evenings and one is part of the school system, which is a nice connection. Aly Tran is now Assistant Director, taking on more administrative responsibilities but continuing with the Author Visit, Chocolate Town Book Festival as well as other outreach. Katelyn Boucher will be taking Aly's previous responsibilities and will coordinate with her.

Participants in the Summer Reading Program have increased.

11. Endowment projects include new trash cans, marketing for the reading program, and a wrap for the Book Locker.
12. On hold are website revisions and implementation of the Vega search engine.
13. *Adjournment:* Sandy made a motion to adjourn seconded by Jordon. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

*The next meeting of the Hershey Public Library Board of Directors is 7 PM on
September 15, 2026*