

Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library
Minutes January 28, 2020
Lambertville Free Public Library
6 Lilly St, Lambertville, NJ 08530 7PM

The meeting of the Trustees of the Lambertville Free Public Library was called to order at 7:04 PM by Matt Larkin. In addition to Mr. Larkin present were Trustees Amy Connelly, Stephanie Volmer, Emily Carone, Evan Straley, and Children's Librarian Jennifer Sirak. Absent were Jacqueline Sornstein, Harold Dunn and Paul Hamilton.

In compliance with the open public meeting act, it was announced that this was the January meeting which had been published in *The Democrat* and filed with the City Clerk for posting on the bulletin board located in City Hall.

The meeting started with a discussion with a large number of the members of the Friends of Lambertville Library. At least ten members of FOLL were present. The LFPL Board and FOLL discussed the upcoming Library Construction Bond Act and the efforts by the city and LFPL to write a grant to build a new municipal building which would house the Library and other city departments. The Board also gave a brief overview of our 5-yr plan project, and highlighted the initial outreach efforts to the community and the results of those efforts. After a broad discussion of these initiatives, the LFPL Board left the FOLL meeting and continued its meeting.

The main focus of this meeting was to discuss the 5-yr plan, to review the results of the survey and visioning sessions, and to identify next steps. Amy Connelly and Stephanie Volmer have been leading the effort on community outreach and survey summary. The draft goals for the LFPL over the next five years were reviewed and adopted as written. The following are the goals for the LFPL 5-yr plan.

LFPL Five Year Plan Target Outcomes

Adult Programming

LFPL will expand adult program offerings to more fully serve its mission to inspire and assist the community to learn, explore, create and connect.

Facilities – Interior

LFPL will examine and update interior space to enhance individual and group access, usefulness, and flexibility.

Technology

LFPL will seek to research and optimize its technology infrastructure to promote electronic resource access and education.

Communications

LFPL will seek to communicate more regularly and to a broader audience, regarding its informational resources available to all.

Governance

LFPL Trustees will have an enhanced understanding of responsibilities and resources available to LFPL/Lambertville community.

Facilities – Exterior

LFPL will work with Lambertville city to ensure safe, compliant and inviting library exterior.
(NJ Library Construction Bond Act)

Staff

LFPL will support the training and resource needs of its staff so that they are empowered to best serve the needs of our diverse community.

Volunteers

LFPL will clearly articulate its need for volunteers while fostering an effective partnership with volunteers and Friends in service to the Lambertville community.

Collection

LFPL will review its current physical and electronic collection to ensure its ability to fulfill the library's purpose, vision, and mission.

Also, the mayor had reached out to Amy Connelly and Matt Larkin and asked that the Library provide a statement of support for the city's plan to build a single new building that would house the library and the city hall, the police station and the city court. The board discussed this issue and we agreed to support the construction of the new building as the prime path forward, and we drafted a statement of support. We also agreed to share the support statement with the Library staff and with the newly reorganized FOLL.

Here is that statement:

The Library trustees are developing a five-year plan to create a 21st-century library in Lambertville. Our vision is to be Lambertville's center for literacy and information resources that serve and empower our diverse community. The response to our recent public survey was overwhelming, and we want to honor that input. The feedback shows a clear need for a larger, more comfortable, more functional, community-focused space.

New Jersey is offering a competitive grant in which the state will pay 50 percent of library construction costs. The library trustees will work with city officials to try to secure these funds. We look forward to further input from library staff and all residents in support of our mission to provide accessible space and resources that inspire and assist the community to learn, explore, create, and connect.