

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 14, 2025
Minutes**

Present: Bruce Blattner, Mark Furey, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco, Maria Rondinaro

Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido, Debra Graham

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Russell-Fowler read the notice of the meeting. Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Blattner moved to accept the June, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Russell-Fowler and the board voted unanimously to accept the June minutes.

Director's Report

Mr. Hallman announced that the capital improvements committee and town engineers had carried out an inspection regarding improvements to the envelope (building exterior) of the library.

Mr. Hallman also announced that at the next Pat Roddy concert, the Belmar Historical Society will have a table to pass out information about the organization and to solicit donations for the society's ongoing projects.

Librarian's Report

Ms. Graham announced that the teen book club is up and running. Catherine Quinn is doing a great job. Ms. Russell-Fowler inquired if the teen library group could be photographed in action for promotional purposes, and Ms. Graham said she would look into getting photo waivers from participants.

The summer reading program is moving along well.
The patron list has been updated and new cards have been issued.

The library's Monarch Butterfly terrarium has two new residents—two chrysalises have taken up residence.

Library Assistant's Report

Mr. Pulido discussed the success of the June 19th Juneteenth Celebration and Concert. Total attendance was 102. He provided a summary of other recent events and a preview of upcoming activities. A separate summary of these activities follows.

Ms. Russell-Fowler asked if the feedback cards that had been developed were being used. He said he would make sure that attendees are urged to fill them out.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havens delivered the financial report for May, 2025.

June 2025	Spent to date	Reimbursement
Budget Amount	\$973,580.00	
Spent to date	\$257,613.07	
Waiting to pay vendor	\$50,609.16	
STD & Waiting	\$308,222.23	
Balance of Budget	\$665,357.77	

Budget Amount	\$973,580.00	
Amount Spent	\$308,222.23	
Balance	\$665,357.77	32%

President's Report

Ms. Russell-Fowler expressed the opinion that, in discussions about the viability of extending or reducing hours, Consistency is the most important factor to patrons.

The library has a license to show movies which it uses infrequently. Mr. Schappert suggested that we might consider a more robust film program, considering that we are already paying for the license. This might be a draw for seniors. The topic of senior engagement is problematic. Few Belmar seniors seem inclined to come to the library. Mr. Pulido is working on this problem and has plans to take a brochure to the senior building, as well as to local B&Bs and hotels. Mr. Hallman

agreed that we might be able to share the buses with the school and provide transportation to the library from the senior building.

New Business

The library has received a violation for excessive noise during the June 5th Pat Roddy concert. Despite our efforts to monitor the sound and keep it at an acceptable level, one of the neighbors of the library made a complaint to the Monmouth County Health Department. The library has been advised that within 30 days of the notice, we must provide a written response outlining the actions we have taken to achieve and maintain compliance. If this is not carried out, a fine could be levied.

Mr. Hallman has discussed this citation with the borough lawyer, and he has informed the Board that he will respond to the violation. Board members discussed steps we might take to redirect the sounds of the concerts, including repositioning the band and/or possibly acquiring a band shell shielding the western edge of the property from excessive sound. A further update will be provided at the next meeting.

Ms. Havens moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hutchinson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm. The next Board meeting will be held on August 4 at 6 pm.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 7/28/2025