Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 8, 2026 Minutes

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

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold
Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Russell-Fowler read the notice of the meeting posted on Belmar.com and Belmar Public Library web sites.

Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag. Ms. Hutchinson called the roll.

Mr. Blattner moved to accept the May, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Furey and the board voted unanimously to accept the May minutes.

Luis Pulido's Report

Mr. Pulido has been researching the idea of a "Library of Things"—useful items (tools, equipment) that can be borrowed from the library. Some area libraries have created this feature as an addition to a library's function as place where you can learn about the world to provide the tools to apply that knowledge. This would be a source of things people wouldn't purchase for themselves because they're expensive and/or are used infrequently. Mr. Pulido showed a video of the library of things in Newton, MA and distributed packets of information from the Eisner Library in Red Bank, NJ. The Red Bank Library developed a list of things the patrons would like to be able to borrow and purchased these items. Administering such a program raises logistical and liability issues, and the Red Bank Library provided a release form with a list of safety precautions and age guidelines and a statement of responsibility for replacement cost of lost/damaged items. They also provided a guide to choosing and procuring items and a lending checklist for staff to follow.

The board members discussed further questions of liability and time and space commitment. Mr. Pulido had researched storage sheds and the group discussed where a shed might be situated. It was agreed to discuss this idea further at the July meeting.

Director's Report

Mr. Hallman announced that the contractors' project to upgrade the facade of the

building; replace three doors, flooring and door sills; and replace flashing around the chimney had been completed. An extra $1300 was required for windowsills to the east of the front door. Working with this contractor was great, particularly since he communicated well with subcontractors.

Mr. Hallman reported on the further research he and Mr. Pulido had done on the position of Community Support Liaison. Mr. Hallman proposed training selected current staff members. He will approach David Perez at Long Branch Library, who currently serves as Support Liaison, to see if he is willing and feels qualified to provide training. If he is not available, they will attempt to find another consultant as a backup. This initiative, as well as the Library of Things, will require budget allocations.

Treasurer's Report

May 2026

Budget Amount	$1,084,404.00		
Spent to date	$240,500.04		
Waiting to pay vendor	$223,589.70		
STD & Waiting	$464,089.74		
Balance of Budget	**$620,324.26**		
Budget Amount	**$1,084,404.00**		
Amount Spent	**$464,089.74**		
Balance	**$620,324.26**	43%	

President's Report

There is a library card issue concerning Lake Como residents. Monmouth County Library turns away Lake Como residents if they have a Belmar zip code, which many do. Meanwhile, Belmar Library requires a fee from Lake Como residents, whose taxes are used to support the Wall Twp. Library. Mr. Schappert felt strongly that this was not our problem and needed to be handled by the Lake Como council in conjunction with the Monmouth County Library.

Ms. Russell-Fowler also reported that she had replaced the flower pot next to Mr. Ghosh's bench. It had been moved during recent concert. She also alerted Mr. Hallman to the need to get the air conditioning fixed for the coming hot weather.

Ms. Russell-Fowler proposed that a guest book, allowing for visitor names and comments, be installed near the Springsteen guitar sculpture. It would need a special housing like one of the Little Free Libraries around town. Mr. Hallman will look into this.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

The Juneteenth Celebration at Taylor Pavilion will be held Thursday, June 18th from 5 to 7 pm. The event will feature music, poetry, community and refreshments.

The library sponsored a concert by Beach Music as a benefit for the Circle of Friends at their restaurant. It was successful and well-attended.

The remaining 2026 Board meetings are scheduled for:

July 13
August 10
September 14
October 19
November 9
December 14

There being no new business to discuss or comments from the public, Mr. Schappert moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Russell-Fowler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 06/18/2026