Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 10, 2026 Minutes

Present: Bruce Blattner, Mayor Caitlin Donovan, Mark Furey, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Maria Rondinaro, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Sharon Russell-Fowler

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold, Michael Schappert,

Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido, Pat Roddy (and a number of Mr. Roddy's neighbors and fans)

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.

Ms. Roper-Robinson moved to accept the July 13, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rondinaro and the board voted unanimously to accept the July minutes.

Director's Report



The Board presented a citation to Pat Roddy recognizing his long-time service to the Library and our appreciation of his band's concerts on our grounds. A plaque and matted and framed photograph taken by the Ocean Avenue Stompers was presented to Mr. Roddy, and he was asked to choose a location where this can be permanently displayed in the Library. He expressed his thanks and his attachment to Belmar's Library.

There will be a facility evaluation meeting this week, and the evaluation will be finalized by the end of August. The board should receive the report for the September meeting.

Bob Mataranglo's visitor sign-in apparatus should be in place by the guitar sculpture for the end-of-summer Pat Roddy concert. The structure is ready, but the spot where it will be installed must be dug out so that square cement blocks (12x12) can be laid flat.

Luis Pulido's Report

Mr. Pulido made a presentation on his latest findings about the Library of Things (attached). He has contacted 45 libraries that have collections of tools and other useful objects to lend to the public. None of these houses its collection remotely —all have onsite storage, although only ten display their collections onsite to the public.

Mr. Pulido learned that the two most popular objects to lend are power washers and lawn games. Some report that American Girl dolls are also popular.

Typically, objects to lend are available whenever the library is open. There are several different methods of displaying the collection: repurposed DVD cases, tag systems, and live on the floor. Lending Key is a software package some use to manage the collections and lending process.

The cost of the project has been reduced since our last meeting. Mr. Hallman has negotiated a free survey, reducing the cost of the storage shed installation to $24,172. Belmar's insurance has cautioned against lending out power tools or anything that is powered by gas. Additionally they expressed concern regarding recreational devices that require a licensed operator, like "bouncy houses". It will be easier to insure items that are owned by the borough rather than through donations, electrical and mechanical items. Some items will be accepted from the residents, to be discussed at a later date.

Questions arose about raising the shed on cement blocks, since added height will mitigate flooding problems. Mayor Donovan said that negotiations are underway about cement dugouts for the 13th Avenue sports fields, and perhaps pouring a slab for the shed can be included in the negotiations. She and Mr. Hallman will look into it.

Several members volunteered to join a sub-committee to work on pricing and purchasing items, including Ms. Havens, Ms. Rondinaro, Ms. Russell-Fowler and Mr. Furey. Luis Pulido will serve on the committee as a staff member.

Treasurer's Report

July 2026

Budget Amount	$1,084,404.00		
Spent to date	$552,740.25		
Waiting to pay vendor	$59,517.95		
STD & Waiting	$612,258.20		

Balance of Budget	**$472,145.80**		
Budget Amount	**$1,084,404.00**		
Amount Spent	**$612,258.20**		
Balance	**$472,145.80**	56%	

Old Business

Discussion of the Community Support Liaison is on hold. Mr. Hallman needs to determine if David Perez is available for a presentation, but the Library of Things project is currently taking considerable time and effort.

TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION 2026 REQUIREMENT
New State Aid regulations were promulgated in late 2025. These new requirements mean that public library trustees and commissioners need to complete two hours of continuing education during 2026 that will be reported on in the 2027 Annual Survey.
Continuing education is required by law. Under NJSA (New Jersey Statutes Annotated 15:21-2.3): each member of the board or commission must complete a minimum of two hours of library-related education annually to qualify for state aid, among other requirements.

New Business

Mr. Blattner requested that Mr. Schappert's absences for the foreseeable future be excused. All agreed.

Public Comments

Ms. Anita Pecorelli, a member of the public, asked if evaluation of the water table in the area surrounding the library had been included in the evaluation. Ms. Pecorelli also applauded the recognition of Pat Roddy and asked, once again, that his compensation be commensurate with his services.

After the public comments, Mr. Blattner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded, and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 08/11/2026