

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Eastern Monroe Public Library

The regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Monroe Public Library was held remotely and in person on May 20, 2025.

Present in person: Trudie Lear, Dawn Migliacci, Wanda Lesoine, Jason Phillips,

Present online: Debbie Kulick, Pete Pappalardo, Aaron DeAngelo, also members of the public appeared as Rosemary Schmidt, Mark Love and Carol Wise

Absent: Betsy Buzzelli-Clarke, Judy Magann

Staff in attendance in person: Hope Kuchinski, Cheryl Brice

Staff in attendance online: Julie Bonser

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. by Board President Trudie Lear.

President's Remarks: T. Lear introduced the District Consultant, Erin Morrow, who joined this morning's meeting.

Minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting: Wanda L, Jason P. moved to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report –Copies of the treasurer's report were circulated before the meeting. Aaron D reported that the state revenue has been received, county receipts are behind per the budget, but we should still be fine. Motion made by Aaron D and Wanda L to issue final payments for the courtyard to Mathiesen Landscaping and for the other bills as presented, passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Equipment: A new hose bib was installed so that the garden area can be watered, the landscaping by Mathiesen is now complete and the exterior work by Hance and Nauman is scheduled, on the exterior dry-vit and front roof underside respectively.

Policy and Operations:

Fundraising:

Publicity & Community Relations: No report

Personnel: No report

Smithfield's Branch: Jason P. reports all is fine

Director's Report – *A full copy had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.* Cheryl reports the Friend's book sales are coming up. She is looking at seating for the courtyard. We were denied a grant from PM Vacation Bureau but approved for a Hughes grant to be used for the parking lot and cameras. A small adult literacy grant was also received.

Adult Services Report – *A full copy had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.*

Youth Report: *A full copy had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.*

Pocono Township Branch: President Trudie L read a prepared statement regarding how the board arrived at their decision to close the Pocono branch, including the fact that board was never informed that the township changed their plan to include the library in their new building at the old NCC campus, and prior to that at the elementary school. The email that eventually came from the township, in response to director Cheryl B reaching out, indicated that the library was welcome to stay for now and the township was looking forward to future fundraising with the library in the hopes of housing it at Glenwood Hall. There are issues with the current building and circulation/attendance is down at the branch.

Question and Answer session opened by Trudie:

Resident Tom VanZandt asked for a copy of Trudie's statement and Trudie responded she will get it to him.

Trudie stated she is open to revisiting the closure and discussing possibilities at NCC.

Peter P online stated that we have an outstanding staff. They are eager to please and can be poached, given our location close to NJ.

Mark Love, retired attorney, online, stated there has been a communication gap and he does not want to assess blame but is willing to be a conduit so that a discussion can be had between the library and Pocono township. He is sure it can be worked out and he is planning on going to the next township meeting. Mark asked for a list of the building issues from the library.

Another member of the public, in person, asked if the library pays rent, and Trudie L responded that the library does not. Wanda L pointed out that such an arrangement is not unusual for township services. Mark Love asked if the library would stay open while he was trying to work things out. Louise Leung, member of public in person, lives in Reeders, says she uses the library and that maybe the library wants rent money. Meredith Stemple, in person member of public from Reeders, stated there needs to be more time to work this out and heard that the township will not want to commit to anything in an election year. Another member of the public mentioned that there is an illiteracy problem in the country and libraries should not be shut down. Joan Leonard, member of the public, lives in Stroud township but her daughter lives in Pocono and uses that branch and asked her to come to the meeting. Peter P mentioned the library has been giving service for many years and the township was not responsive to the library's emails and it should not now be a hurry on library's part to act. Robin Kunz from

Cherry Lane, Tannersville, wants to stop the rumor mill. Mention was made of the “Right to Know” law. It was generally agreed to allow Mark Love to take some of the library’s concerns to the township for a response.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Motion to adjourn: passed at 9:37 after being made by Aaron D and Wanda L

Respectfully Submitted,

**Dawn Migliacci
Board Vice-President**