

**WHARTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Prepared by Colleen Pascale, (Secretary)**

7:00 PM Monthly meeting called to order by Michele Howe

Roll Call: Present: Ana Jones, Deb DiMattio, Michele Howe, Colleen Pascale, Christopher Roman, Amelia Nittolo. Not Present: Leonor Vasque

Pledge of Allegiance: In compliance with Open Public Meetings Act: This meeting is being held in conformity to the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Proper public notice of this meeting was published in the Star-Ledger, on the library's website, and social media pages.

7:10 PM Approval of January meeting minutes Motion –Ana Jones, second - Colleen Pascale.

Correspondence

- Bob Keith, NJ State Library

Committee Report:

- Financial Committee and Treasure Report
 - Payment of Bills for the month of December

President's Report:

- Library Re-Opening- The Wharton Library is open after the construction closure.
- Nurse's Office in the Community Room – A group will be established to assist with organizing and cataloging items held in the historical society closets so that space can be utilized as a Town Nurse Office. The DPW will assist with this task.
- Construction Cleanup - The construction on the roof and replacement of windows is completed.

- The Closing of the Library was longer than expected however salary monies saved were applied toward cleaning the library post-construction.
 - A final walk-through inspection will be conducted on January 22, 2025, along with Joe Kovalick
- Town Proposal - Michele Howe met with Joe Kovalcik to review the town's financial proposal for the library. The meeting was held to discuss potential decisions about how things will be divided moving forward to achieving the goal of a sustainable budget. Proposal points.

Directors Report

- Awaiting network closet insulation removal or encasement due to water damage.
- Awaiting flooring replacement in the library's office due to construction leaking.
- Reported no heat situation 12/12 to town and Mako who replaced a coupler and valve.
- Reported no internet situation to optimum who reset the firewall.
- Awaiting staining of outdoor tables by DPW.
- Awaiting installation date for library security cameras.
- Met with Eddie Gonzalez, Eastern Janitorial to discuss post construction clean-up.
- Awaiting Re-Keying of bathroom doors and cleaning closet.
- Coordinated with AARP regarding using the library for tax prep. I have posted their info to our website and sign-ups will begin January 23, 2025.
- Contacted Main to reconfigure our computer area in preparation for re-opening and requested our catalog items be made borrowable again.
- Completed a grant screening application for the Carnegie Foundation who is awarding funds for ESL and College Readiness projects.
- Distributed annual state survey login instructions to Kim and Joe.
- Attended the Friends of the Wharton Library meeting on December 19th, 2025.

Unfinished Business:

- Joe Kovalcik presented the town's financial proposal for the library board to discuss potential decisions about how monies will be divided moving forward to achieve the goal of a sustainable budget. Proposal points.

New Business:

- Board members were sworn in during the yearly reorganization meeting.

Public Comments

- Members of the public engaged in the conversation with the library board and Joe Kovalick regarding future financial decisions and planning.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM
 - Motion: Ana Jones Second: Colleen Pascale