

For public attending remotely:

Note: the virtual platform is ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86746998258?pwd=NkNNcjRFRjVkdTVRqRUV2dIY5N0NvQT09>

Freehold Public Library
Library Trustees Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, April 22, 2025; 7:00 p.m.
Freehold, New Jersey
732-462-5135

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call: (Trustees): Elisha Carter, Zahra Clarke, Jenny Conger, Christine Jensen, Jane Kaye, Maureen MacCutcheon, Margaret Rogers, Jack Shea. Others: Kathy Mulholland (library director).
3. Opening Statement. *“Notice of this meeting as scheduled has been provided as published in the Trustee’s 2025 meeting schedule, as posted at the library facility; shared on the library’s public calendar, various social media, and monthly newsletter; municipal offices of the Borough of Freehold, and newspapers of record of the Borough of Freehold.”* [N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (1973)]
4. Renovation Project Update by Anthony Maltese from Abbingdon Engineering (written report).
5. Reading and Approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2025 regular meeting.

Motion to Approve made by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Reading and Approval of the minutes of the March 31, 2025 special meeting.

Motion to Approve made by: _____ Seconded by: _____

6. Correspondence:
 - Letter dated April 9, 2025 (transmitted via email) from Angela Cleveland (attached below) regarding Transgender Day of Visibility Family Storytime and Craft program (copied below).
 - Card received April 14, 2025: “On behalf of the Freehold Art Society, we would like to express our deep appreciation for your time and expertise in allowing our members to showcase their art in your beautiful, newly renovated library. Thank you again, Respectfully, Lia Fisher, Secretary, Freehold Art Society”
7. New Business:

- Email distribution service: Constant Contact contract for one year: \$294 (for newsletter and other email marketing/distribution up to 500 addresses, including templates and tools, with option to add SMS/text service for \$10/month).

Library director requests trustees to authorize subscribing to this service.

Motion to Approve made by: _____ Seconded by: _____

- Comics Plus annual subscription for \$1,351.35 first year, subsequently \$1,228.50 (digital comic/graphic novels collection)

Library director requests trustees to authorize subscribing to this service.

Motion to Approve made by: _____ Seconded by: _____

8. Purchase orders (see attached/linked ledgers)

3/21/2025 - 4/14/2025

[<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LrOvrLEdF2PhySKV8uMrQkdU6tREl-jr/view?usp=sharing>]

Motion to Approve made by: _____ Seconded by: _____

10. Old Business:

11. Director’s Update:

- Feedback from Transgender Day of Visibility Family Storytime and Craft held on April 9 was universally positive from all attendees, with 46 people (adults and children) present. Kathy read the first story, and a teen volunteer read the following four stories. Coloring pages and two craft projects were provided, as well as light snacks. A couple who came to the library with two children in-tow just for notary service, not knowing about the program, stayed for the entire event and expressed great pleasure in discovering such a fun and positive family outing. One participant inquired about starting a book group for similarly-aged adults (20s-30s?). A teenager approached Kathy after the event and said, with earnest expression, “Thank you for this. I thought I was alone.” Below is a letter from another attendee received the following morning, and comments shared by community members on our event’s Facebook post.
- Borough DPW removed shed from rear garden on March 28, 2025, and a few days after, also the three blue picnic tables from rear garden. The costs of these items will be reimbursed to the library per agreement at the March 26, 2025 meeting at with Steve Gallo, Jenny Conger, Margaret Rogers, Jeff Friedman, Kathy Mulholland, and Robert Cosgrove (Borough’s new attorney). (Total cost: \$6,080). The Borough is providing a storeroom at 30 Mechanic Street for the library’s perpetual use, and Kathy will meet with Mr. Friedman in future to select appropriate picnic tables for rear garden.

- Borough Council issued resolution applying for annual state aid for library (copied below).
- Renovation project update.

REPORTS:

- April’s newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/FPL-APR25>
- Library “door count” (recent dates to left on chart):
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ahdLE_vPc8t4VdwwYI0jrINvzpedZ8x6Zky4rMdEi04/edit?usp=sharing
- Door count March: 1,475
- Computer users March: 292
- Physical material check-outs (“circs”) March: 479
- eBooks/downloadable audio via eLibraryNJ (Libby) February: 423
- Videos: Kanopy videos played March: 17; Access Video On Demand videos March: 3
- Trustee training April: Maureen, 4 hours.

12. Open to public discussion

13. Adjournment.

Motion to Approve made by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Time: _____

Next meeting: May 22, 7:00 p.m.

Updated 4/15/25

Agenda closed/published 4/15/2025, 5:00 p.m.

/km

OFFERED BY: SHUTZER				SECONDED BY: DI BENEDETTO					
	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN		AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
DI BENEDETTO	X				REICH	X			
FRIEDMAN	X				ROGERS	X			
JORDAN	X				SHUTZER	X			

I, TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, CLERK OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AT A MEETING HELD ON APRIL 7, 2025.


 TRACI L. DI BENEDETTO, RMC
 BOROUGH CLERK

Resolution No. 88-25
Agenda #7/2025

**RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR
 LIBRARY STATE AID**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that it hereby makes application for the State Financial Assistance to which it may be entitled under the provisions of Chapter 28, P.L. 1967 (R.S. 18:14A et. seq.) and submits the necessary report and certification concerning its annual expenditures for library purposes as defined in the aforementioned laws for the municipal fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025.

Angela Cleveland, PMP

AngelaCleveland27@gmail.com 908-812-3672
[linkedin.com/in/angelacleveland](https://www.linkedin.com/in/angelacleveland)

April 9, 2025

Freehold Borough Council
Freehold Public Library
tdibenedetto@freeholdboro.org
help@freeholdpubliclibrary.org
kmulholland@freeholdpubliclibrary.org

Dear Members of the Freehold Borough Council and Freehold Public Library Team,

I wanted to take a moment to share my appreciation for the family event held at the Freehold Public Library on Wednesday, April 9. The event coincided with Transgender Day of Visibility and featured storytime and crafts. I had the pleasure of attending and was genuinely moved by the experience.

The teen who read to the children did a wonderful job, and I counted more than 40 individuals in attendance, a beautiful mix of families and community members. The stories chosen were thoughtful and inclusive, and the atmosphere in the room was nothing short of joyful. Children were laughing, listening intently, creating art, and sharing snacks. It felt like the kind of space every town should offer, one where everyone feels at home.

As I watched the kids, I was reminded of myself at that age. I grew up in foster care and often felt like I didn't quite belong. I worked hard to hide my circumstances from my peers, fearing judgment or misunderstanding. If my town had hosted events like this—spaces where differences were not just accepted but celebrated—it would have meant the world to me. I would have seen people welcoming me with open arms, not despite who I was, but simply because I was a part of the community.

That's what this event represented to me: community. It was about bringing people together—families, children, teens, neighbors—through books, creativity, and kindness. We can all agree that making space for connection, joy, and understanding is something worth supporting.

Thank you to the library staff and volunteers who brought this event to life, and to the Council members who continue to support community programming. These efforts do not go unnoticed—and for some of us, they're deeply meaningful.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Angela Cleveland

Note: There are additional positive comments on many of the associated images.
Faces of children are obscured because there were too many to keep track of permissions in event any parents didn't want their children identifiable.
We secured permission of all adults pictured.

Submitted by Kathy Mulholland



Freehold Public Library
Published by Kathy Mulholland

· April 9 at 8:50 PM · 🌐

What a terrific event! Transgender Day of Visibility Family Storytime and Craft!



See insights and ads Boost post

Neighborhood Connections to Health and 78 others 24 comments 10 shares

Like Comment Share

All comments ▾

Danielle Dinapoli
There are only two genders. That is what should be taught. Why is **Donald J. Trump** executive order not taking place here?

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide Edited 9

Heather Kotler
Danielle Dinapoli no one cares about his garbage. Go clutch your pearls elsewhere.

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 3

Danielle Dinapoli
Heather Kotler not sure what your comment means.

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide

Jillian M. O'Brien
Danielle Dinapoli let me ask you something, are you a parent? If yes, do you want your children to feel like they can tell you anything and that you'll always be there for them? Or do you want them to feel like they have to hide things from you in fear that you'll not love them?
Hopefully you want them to be able to tell you anything, well what if someday your child says I'm gay or I'm a lesbian, what if one day one of your children says I'm unhappy being what everyone sees on the outside cause in the inside I feel like someone else and I'm living in hell having to pretend everyday that I'm someone else.... just to please society Can you imagine having to live that way?? Would you stop loving your child or adult child if this were to happen with them? I hope your answer is you'll love your child or adult child no matter what, and if it's you won't, then you don't deserve the title of a parent.

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide Edited 3

Heather Kotler
Jillian M. O'Brien im pretty sure the answer is clear

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide



Danielle Dinapoli

Jillian M. O'Brien I have three children and my children know they can come and talk to me about anything. I have a gay nephew and I love him unconditional and would love my children no matter what. What I have a problem with is that these are young kids that are shown in this picture, you are teaching them that there are more than two genders which there are NOT. You are either a boy or a girl period. I don't care who you love, you can love the same sex, different sex, it doesn't matter to me but teaching or should I say grooming young kids to be something that they aren't is wrong and that is where I draw the line. When my son thought he was spider man when he was 5 I told him he is my little super hero and will always be my super hero but he can't grown up to be spider man. He is now 17 and knows he is not spider man, if I went along with this, I would have a kid that is messed up in the head and would need therapy thinking he is spider man and that would be shame on me for grooming my child to believe he is spider man. Children are children they don't know at a young age what they are and again teaching ~~to~~ false ~~to~~ narratives is unacceptable. I believe gay people are born gay, you know it from a young age, we knew it with my nephew but now a days parents are raising there kids to be gay and this picture is proof of that.

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Jillian M. O'Brien

Danielle Dinapoli those children were there with their parents who happen to be transgender. That isn't grooming, that's loving their children and doing something with them as a family where they aren't looked poorly upon. Also it's children who may feel that way also.

So you say your nephew was born gay? But you don't believe someone can be born in the wrong body?

I have a family member who is now in their 20s, whoever since she could talk was telling everyone I'm not a boy, I am a girl. Sobbing for years that he was not a he but a she.

She even told her grandparents, you must not love me cause you won't let me be who I am, which is a girl, you want me to be what you see, a boy and I'm not. I'm a girl.

She is a girl and she was born in the wrong skin, a boys skin. And I'm so proud of her for living her life and being who she was meant to be.

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Kyle Allen

Danielle Dinapoli




















2d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide





Jamie Klenetsky Fay


so proud of my hometown. thank you for doing this!


- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 5  
-  **David MacDougall**
Freehold is truly a treasure....
- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 6  
-  **Megan Val**
Thank you so much for doing this! Our family had a wonderful time. It's so heartwarming to know our library is a safe space  Absolutely getting some of these books for our home library. 📖
- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 4  
-  **Margaret Rogers**
This makes my heart happy! What a wonderful turnout!!!
- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 7  
-  **Max Davidson**
Mental illness celebration day?
- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 4 
-  **Claire Morales**
Max Davidson you don't live here, know nothing about the event. It isn't a mental illness. Please educate yourself.
- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 3 
-  **Max Davidson**
Claire Morales live there. Went to school there. Grew up there per the DSM-5. It is absolutely a mental illness educate yourself
- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide


5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide


 **Jacqueline Gilmore**
Top fan
Max Davidson not that trolls are ever worth arguing with, but I feel it's important for anyone reading the comments to realize that you are purposely stating misinformation to support your bigotry. The DSM-5 focuses on the DISTRESS that Trans folks feel when their gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth. It does NOT say that being Trans is a mental disorder. But thanks anyway for exposing yourself as a bigot.



5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 5 


 **Max Davidson**
Jacqueline Gilmore calling someone who believes in science a bigot...I'll take that as a badge of honor lol


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 **Claire Morales**
Max Davidson you are confusing the story time offerings. Last night was to recognize a facet of the Transgender experience.
We have another story time to enlighten the public on mental health matters at a later date.
Neither event is celebratory, but definitely educational and empathetic.




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 **Jenny Conger**
Top fan
It was amazing!! Great job by our guest reader, too! it was so awesome seeing all the kids (and grownups!) having a good time. 





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- 5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide Edited 6 



 **Kathleen Doane Eckhardt**
It was a beautiful night! Our young reader, Ryan, did an awesome job reading to the little ones. Poignant stories that shared affirming values like acceptance and loving yourself. Thank you for hosting this event. Makes me love our community even more!

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 6  
-  **Carrie Moore Conger**
It was amazing. Thank you for such an inclusive space

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 4  
-  **Kathy Mulholland**
I'm glad we bought the chairs to lend out...we needed every chair we had!!!

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 9  
-  **Andrea Sandoval**
Love to see this!!! 

5d Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 3  
-  **Cheryl UnglertGreenfield**
Thank you Freehold Library.

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