



**Acton Public Library  
Board of Directors**

60 Old Boston Post Rd.  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

**Acton Public Library  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020**

**Attendance**

Members present: Amanda Brouwer (Library Director), Nancy Walsh, (Board Chairperson), Alan Schwarz (Vice Chairperson), Nathan Wise (Treasurer), Kathleen Smith (Corresponding Secretary), Michael Cameron, Susan Mariani, Patricia Horn O'Brien.

Absent (\*notified,\*\*did not notify): Janet Hodge-Burke\*\*, Mike Osnato\*.

Others: Timothy Kellogg (Board Recorder), Eric Dussault (Public Guest).

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Nathan Wise and seconded by Alan Schwarz to move public participation to the start of the meeting. All were in favor. Agenda item moved.

**Public Participation**

Eric Dussault joined the meeting. He is a resident of Old Saybrook with three children. Mr. Dussault expressed his concerns about the revisions to the Child Safety Policy regarding the state statute on age requirements for children to be in public buildings. Mr. Dussault would like some understanding of the changes made to the Child Safety Policy. Chairperson Walsh reviewed the policy revision process. State law and the Child safety Policies of other libraries were taken into consideration for the revision of the Child Safety Policy. Mr. Dussault has concerns about how the school's open campus allows kids the opportunity to go to starbucks alone and not the library alone. He understands it's not the library's job to babysit but thinks there could be another solution. Chairperson Walsh would like to take Mr. Dussault's concerns into consideration and review blanket options for the community. Mr. Dussault is concerned that the state statute is in the policy and not being enforced. Mr. Dussault left the meeting.

The board discussed the Child Safety Policy concerns addressed above. The board will review the matter further and resume discussion of the Child Safety Policy under Old Business in March.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

The minutes of January 14, 2020 were reviewed. A **Motion** was made by Alan Schwarz and seconded by Susan Mariani to approve the minutes as corrected. Corrections: Capitalization of March in programming review. All were in favor. Minutes approved as corrected. The Policy Subcommittee minutes of January 31, 2019 were reviewed. A **motion** was made by Michael Cameron and seconded by Nathan Wise to approve the subcommittee minutes as presented. All were in favor. Subcommittee minutes approved as presented.

**Acceptance of Financial Reports**

Director Brouwer reported on the fiscal year-to-date and Non-Town Funds. The December Non-Town Funds numbers were corrected. Discussion took place. The Bernstein fund is as reported. The CEN Fiber Grant funds are an in/out item. A **motion** was made by Kathleen Smith and seconded by Patricia Horn O'Brien to approve the operating budget financial report as presented. There was discussion of the Non-Town Funds. A **motion** was made by Kathleen Smith and seconded by Alan Schwarz to approve the Non-Town Funds as presented.

**Acceptance of the Statistics Report**

Director Brouwer reported that statistics are up overall. December corrections were provided. Discussion took place. A **motion** was made by Patricia Horn O'Brien and seconded by Susan Mariani to accept the statistics report as presented.

**Correspondences**

None.

### **Director's Report**

Director Brouwer provided her report. The library is hiring for a Saturday person. An RFP has been prepared for the boiler and door, with multiple bids. There's been discussion of credit card processing. DVDs will be going back on the floor in their cases. There were service calls for the boiler and the septic system. Director Brouwer provided the Children's report: stem programs, Treehouse Players, and a Garden Club birdsnest event were all well attended. Director Brouwer provided the Teen/YA report: D'n'D game days are doing well. Brian is holding weekly crafts and games programs, he's networking with school librarians, and working on summer programming ideas. Discussion of library mini-golf took place. Director Brouwer reported on Adult Programming. Upcoming events include ukulele lessons, the annual Poetry contest, and the Kerry Boys. Strategic Planning updates were provided, including demographic changes and community aspirations.

### **Friends Report**

Kathleen Smith provided the Friends of the Library report for the meeting on January 23, 2020. Maureen Mcway and Margo Robins resigned from the Friends board. The Friends account balance for October was over \$18,000, for November it was also over \$18,000, and for December it was over \$17,000. The Friends discussed the purchase of new tables. The Friends have a membership of 133, which returned over \$6,000. March 26-28 is the Friends Mini Book Sale. The Friends also discussed bookmarks, the library passport program gifts, and museum passes/changes. Updated Friends By-laws will be ready by April. May is the annual meeting.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

The Policy Subcommittee provided a By-Laws draft for the board to review.

Additional discussion took place.

### **Adjournment**

A **motion** was made by Alan Schwarz and seconded by Patricia Horn O'Brien to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy Kellogg,  
*Board Recorder*