



ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
60 Old Boston Post Road Old Saybrook, CT 06475 (860)395-3184
Acton Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson N. Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: N. Walsh (Chairperson), S. Mariani (Corresponding Secretary), A. Bundonis Jr. (Via Zoom), M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola

Members absent (*notified, **did not notify): *A. Schwarz, *N. Wise

Staff: A. Brouwer (Library Director); J. Galli (Recording Clerk)
V. Miller (Chief Development Officer)

In attendance: N. Prescott, Co-President of Friends

N. Walsh introduced the new Board member Al Bundonis, Jr. who is a lifelong resident of Old Saybrook with Board experience. He said, “This building and what it represents holds dear to my heart.” He also said that he is thrilled to be here, and looks forward to giving back.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the **Board Meeting Minutes** of Tuesday, October 8, 2024 as presented **MADE:** MA. Iadarola **SECONDED:** A. Derouaux-Welch **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, S. Mariani, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

MOTION to approve the **Library Renewal Committee Meeting Minutes** of Friday, October 11, 2024 as presented **MADE:** M. Delmonico **SECONDED:** A. Derouaux-Welch **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, S. Mariani, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

MOTION to approve the **Strategic Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** of Friday, October 25, 2024 as presented **MADE:** M.A. Iadarola **SECONDED:** S. Mariani **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, S. Mariani, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

4. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT

We are four months into the budget and doing well, on track with the electric bill, and in the process of calling vendors (including HVAC and cleaning) to find out what price increases we will incur for the next budget. We already know LION will have an increase. The library will no longer subscribe to Value Line, a print resource that provides investment research. Hoopla is doing well; more money is needed for OverDrive. The generator will be diesel so the cost for fuel needs to come out of the budget.

MOTION to accept the **Financial Report** as presented **MADE:** A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED:** M. Cameron **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, S. Mariani, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF NON-TOWN FUND REPORT

Ct Card funds paid for the Friends' breakfast. The Ct Card Renovation account paid for the tire cover for the Grenadier and the giveaway flashlights. Money received from Lost items goes to the town and gets put in a general fund.

MOTION to accept the **Non-Town Fund Report** as presented **MADE:** M. Delmonico **SECONDED:** MA. Iadarola **VOTING IN FAVOR** N. Walsh, S. Mariani, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF STATISTICS REPORT

Circulation is down 7%. Amanda looked into other libraries and found that circulation is down in 20 of the 30 libraries; but statistically, she said, numbers do drop in the Autumn. Reference and tech appointments remain busy. We had 7,000 visitors this past month with 2235 WiFi sessions and 16 logins to Transparent Language. There were eight homebound deliveries. Sixty-six library cards were issued.

MOTION to accept the **Statistics Report** as presented **MADE:** A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED:** S. Mariani **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, S. Mariani, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

7. CORRESPONDENCES – None.

8. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Nancy encouraged Board members to view Board of Selectman and Board of Finance agendas/minutes on the town website for a wealth of financial information about the renovation monies that will be voted on at the annual town meeting on the 25th of November at 6 P.M. at the middle school. One of the items on the Agenda is to approve 100K from ARPA to be set aside in town funds and used for the library renovation. ARPA's 100K will bring the total amount of municipal funds to \$1.1 mil. These funds cannot be used to match the \$2 mil state grant.

9. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECT

Victoria reminded everyone that the Open House on Thursday, December 5th starts at 3:30 and asked Board members to attend to answer questions and keep the momentum going. She explained that there will be four information stations (teen, child, patio, and work/pod meeting rooms). She has planned a scavenger hunt to receive a stamp at each station that can be turned in to receive a gift. Deb Grass (2nd generation Tucker family) has offered a matching gift of \$50K to stimulate donations. Fromage has generously donated 3 30-inch charcuterie boards. High school students will be available to help parents with their children.

One Cause will run the raffle and marketing for the Grenadier – we are just waiting for final approval from the attorneys. Victoria received approval from town to display the car on the green at town events. Through “Giving Tuesdays” you can sign up to become a fundraiser.

10. LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The calendar software company we have used for the last five years has folded. We purchased and are busy inputting our events into the new one, Assabet. In the near future, patrons will be able to book rooms on the website as well. During the month of October, 30 adult programs were offered with 178 attending.

Coming Up:

- Nov. 18 Native American Stories of Survival
- Dec. 7 A Taste of Korea

The children’s library hosted 30 events with 759 participants. Our One Book, One Town title was *I Am Love: A Book of Compassion*. Goodwin students visited the library to hear the story and add a star to our display. The scavenger hunt used pictures from the story.

Upcoming for kids:

- Name the Lion
- Popcorn Palooza: Family Movie on half days

YA – The studious patrons program continues to induce teens to study with reward coupons when they have been “caught studying” 6 or more times at the library. Brian was thrilled to be asked to write letters of recommendation for two students. The teen display focuses on teen mental health, celebrating Latino heritage and how to navigate Middle or High School.

Looking Ahead:

- A return of the screen test program with Lisa Lelas
- After-school visit with Henna Artist Jamilah
- All Ages Open Mic 11/13

11. FRIEND’S REPORT

The Friends of the Library held their Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 2024. The Treasurer presented the balance of \$44,300, the major expense this period being *Bookpage*. The next Book Sale is scheduled for 11/22 (Fri., 10-4) and 11/23 (Sat., 10-3) and will take place in the Tile Gallery.

Jan Fraser has made beautiful adult and child size aprons to donate to the sale. Amanda's mom has also made and donated beautiful tote bags with matching bookmarks. Amanda thanked the Friends for all they do to fund programming of which \$10,500 was appropriated this year. Due to rising costs all around, Amanda asked that the number be increased by \$7,000 to pay for the summer reading pizza and ice cream parties as well as some of the programming including the Florence Griswold art series which the Friends unanimously agreed to. Nancy Prescott said that the purpose of the Friends is to help the library however needed, and that thankfully we have the funds to do so. Friends will be visible at the town meeting for library funding and for the Torchlight Parade. They will be applying for the Essex Bank Grant again, prior to the Book Sale.

12. OLD BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee Updates

Library Renewal Committee topics were covered via Victoria's report. You can read specifics in the minutes of the October 11th meeting.

Strategic Planning met October 25th. Susan explained that they're working on a cohesive document of what we're doing and how it relates to the renewal. The pages reference the original document as well as the feasibility study. A brochure with the specifics is in the works.

Float Committee – Susan showed the Board the lights that will adorn the lighthouse float intended to be pulled by the Grenadier in the Torchlight Parade. The Board offered up generic holiday titles for a playlist.

Mini Lighthouse - Mike Cameron brought in a sample mini lighthouse he created to sell with proceeds going toward the renewal.

13. NEW BUSINESS – None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

<p>MOTION to adjourn the meeting of Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 7:55 P.M. to the next scheduled meeting of Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the Friends Conference Room as presented MADE: M. Delmonico SECONDED: MA. Iadarola VOTING IN FAVOR: N. Walsh, S. Mariani, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, MA. Iadarola OPPOSED: None ABSTAINING: None MOTION APPROVED: 7-0-0.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Galli
Recording Clerk