

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD MEETING MINUTES

Unapproved

Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of May 28, 2019

Members present: Dorene Ciarcia, Martha Conneely, Peter Denegre, Mary Frazeur, George Kelly, Mary Pelletier, Terry Santapaola

Members excused: Hannah Granfield, Laila Mandour

Others present:

Brook Berry, Library Director
Mary Breton, Town Council Liaison
Carolyn Vallieres, Friends of Wethersfield Library

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dorene Ciarcia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Martha Conneely moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting as amended. Mary Pelletier seconded.

Peter Denegre, Mary Frazeur, and Terry Santapaola abstained. All others present voted in favor. The motion passed, 4-0, with three abstentions.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Carolyn Vallieres reported that the Book Sale raised \$7,200, which is an increase from last spring's sale. The May Market also went well. The emphasis there was on children's books.

The Friends will again make a scholarship award at the Dollars for Scholars evening tomorrow.

On June 8 Julie Konopka will be honored with an award from the State Friends of the Libraries at its annual meeting in Middletown.

On June 15 Carolyn and Ralph Horowitz will visit a miniature golf library fundraiser in Meriden.

Dorene Ciarcia and Martha Conneely both complimented the Friends on the Chamber of Commerce After Hours event they hosted.

TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mary Breton said that most of the Council's time recently has been spent on the Town Budget. The Council also accepted a grant from the Keane Foundation and approved a new playground for Charles Wright School.

LIBRARY BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dorene informed members that the Library budget was cut by \$25,000.

She also reminded members to let Brook or her know if they are not able to attend any meetings during the summer.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brook reported that the Genealogy Workshop was well-attended, and a large crowd is also expected for the talk by Peter Marteka of the Courant on Thursday.

Preparations for the summer reading programs are well underway. Brook showed samples of the brag tags that will be distributed to participating children for summer reading. They will add beads as they complete books. Brook also remarked on the importance of providing free books to those children who do not have ready access to them. Brook and the staff are looking at the local Foodshare program as a potential outreach point for a book giveaway.

The seventh grade visit was held the Monday after the Book Sale. Staff adapted well to the logistical changes required. Third grade visits will finish up this week.

Brook will speak on behalf of the Library at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the Wethersfield Diner on June 6

Second round interviews for the public services manager position will take place tomorrow.

Brook addressed the \$25,000 budget reduction required by the Council. The positive side is that the early notification will give us time to develop a plan to adjust to it.

The Library received a generous \$2,000 unrestricted donation. This donor has given approximately \$4,000 in the time Brook has been Director. Dorene will thank her on behalf of the Board and the Library.

As a net lender, the Library has received a state payment of \$14,464. This money be used for anything.

Brook also distributed a tentative schedule for the revision of existing Library policies and guidelines, and the development of certain new policies. Some of the new policies will need to be reviewed by the Town Attorney.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Brook discussed the status of the FY 18-19 and 19-20 budgets. The current budget is about 78% spent and will probably end up in the 90 to 95% range, which is similar to last year. Brook and the staff have begun to look at the options for dealing with the \$25,000 reduction.

Motion to amend the schedule of fees for public printing

Brook presented the proposed changes to the schedule of charges for printing of copies by the public.

Peter Denegre moved that the number of free computer page printouts be reduced from five to two copies and the cost of printing from the computer be increased from ten cents to fifteen cents per page. Mary Frazeur seconded.

Following discussion, all present voted in favor. The motion passed, 7-0.

Motion to invest the funds in the Library Account as recommended by FIA.

Brook and Dorene reported that at the recent Finance Committee meeting, Andrew Salak of Fiduciary Investment Advisers reviewed the investment performance for the most recent quarter and recommended that the allocation of the funds in the Library be set at 65% global equities and 35% fixed income. The Finance Committee agreed with this recommendation.

Peter Denegre moved that the funds in the Library Account be invested according to the allocation recommended by Fiduciary Investment Advisers. Martha Conneely seconded.

After further discussion, all present voted in favor. The motion passed, 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Peter Denegre moved to adjourn. Mary Frazeur seconded.

All present voted in favor. The motion passed, 7-0.

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The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
George Kelly, Secretary