



Wethersfield Library

Wethersfield Library Board Virtual Meeting (Zoom) June 23, 2020

Approved

Members present: Dorene Ciarcia, Martha Conneely, Mary Frazier, George Kelly, Terry Santapaola, Laurie Wrona

Member excused: Peter Denegre, Hannah Granfield, Laila Mandour

Others present:

Brook Berry, Library Director

Gary Evans, Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dorene Ciarcia called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

No report.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

No report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Finance Committee will meet remotely on July 8 at 5:30.

The next Board meeting is July 28. It will be important to have a quorum because the Board needs to vote on any fund transfers prior to the August Town Council meeting.

After serving nine years on the Library Board, Dorene observed that this is her last meeting. She thanked the Board for the flowers it sent. Brook expressed her appreciation for Dorene's guidance and support. Martha, speaking on behalf of the Board, thanked Dorene for her extraordinary leadership.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The summer reading program has begun. Brook encouraged all Board members to participate.

The new Teen Librarian, Sarah Briggs, started work on June 15. We are very excited to have her join us.

Also on June 15 the staff began setting up appointments for patrons to pick up their holds. Brook is looking to add some additional services around the end of July or early August, but no date has been set for reopening. Only a few libraries in the area have reopened, on a very limited basis.

Brook continues to attend the Town's weekly Emergency Operations meetings and to coordinate with the Health District Director on Covid-related issues. He and Brook will do a walk-through of the building in the near future. Brook is also tracking the public health advice for the reopening of libraries and museums, as well as for retail establishments. The Library's stocks of PPE are holding up, and plexiglass continues to be installed where needed.

Staffing priorities are focused on supporting the gradual reinstatement of services and supporting the children and teen summer reading programs. A limited number of part time non-union staff will be brought back into the mix to help with a variety of tasks including fulfilling patron holds, and the union staff working from home will gradually return to the building. The staff has to acclimate themselves to a new working and customer service environment and in some cases perform functions that are new to them. They are adjusting to these changes as best as could be expected. Overall staff have done their best during this unprecedented challenge.

The Town's HR Director, Stephanie Askeland, has accepted a new position in Avon. She told Brook that she had enjoyed her interactions with the Library Board. Dorene asked Brook to convey the Board's appreciation to Stephanie.

Brook discussed the monthly financial reports. In addition, the accounts with Schwab have done reasonably well. The Sjoman account is now above \$300,000.

Brook also commended Dorene on her service as Board Chair. Under her leadership the Board hired a new Director, hired a new financial advising firm, developed a strategic plan, launched a revised website, and completed the rebranding process. Dorene played an active role in each of these initiatives. As Brook said, she will be greatly missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Martha Conneely voted to adjourn. Laurie Wrona seconded. All present voted in favor, in a roll call vote. The motion passed, 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
George Kelly, Secretary