



Wethersfield Library

Wethersfield Library Board Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

October 27, 2020

Approved Minutes

Members present: Martha Conneely, Amanda Drew, Mary Frazier, Hannah Granfield, George Kelly, Terry Santapaola, Laurie Wrona

Member excused: Peter Denegre

Others present:

Brook Berry, Library Director
Amy Morin Bello, Town Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Martha Conneely called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Amanda Drew moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020 meeting. Hannah Granfield seconded.

In a roll call vote, Martha Conneely, Amanda Drew, Mary Frazier, Hannah Granfield, George Kelly, and Terry Santapaola voted in favor. The motion passed, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

Brook reported that the Friends' membership drive is ongoing. She encouraged Board members to join.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

Amy Bello reported on recent Council meetings. The Council approved spending for enhanced ventilation in school buildings. Town-wide leaf collection is underway.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Martha reported that Laila Mandour has submitted her resignation. She expressed the Board's appreciation for Laila's many years of service. Martha encouraged other members to consider taking Laila's place as Board Secretary.

There will be no meeting in November. The next meeting is December 1.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The phased reopening of the Library continues. In October the Library opened one study room to patrons. Another will be made available soon. Only one person is permitted in a study room at a time. Saturday hours have been expanded to 10:00 to 5:00 and as of November 5 we plan to add Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 9:00.

The staff continues its efforts to encourage social distancing, ensure mask usage to any patron who does not have one, and help maintain cleanliness throughout the building. The Library continues to follow the guidance of the Health District in an effort to keep from having to pull back on any services.

Children's Librarian Regina Aleksandravicius has decided to retire after over twenty years in that position. Brook praised Regina for all of her work. Several Board members expressed their appreciation for the enrichment their own children experienced during Regina's tenure.

The Library will be submitting an application for renewal of D&O insurance. We set aside about \$1,000 for this.

Brook summarized the financial report, which reflects that we are on track with respect to the budget. In addition, she did a quick review of the Library's investment accounts. The audit of the Town is nearly complete. Brook does not anticipate or is aware of any issues with the Library's accounts, etc.

Staff are in the midst of working on statistics for the State Library Report.

Remote and virtual programming is continuing. The Children's Department continues the program Adventures Around the World which recently featured the country of Japan, and included Wethersfield's sister city - Nagayo. Teen program highlights include marshmallow sculptures and candy turkeys. Adult program highlights include a series of three job-related sessions, presented jointly with the Berlin-Peck and Rocky Hill Libraries. Programs with Food Explorers and a program called the Spirits of New England which is scheduled for November 9th.

On Monday the Children's Department will close for approximately 3 days for the Election. It is anticipated that absentee ballot counting will occur.

A UPS has been installed. The Library also received approval to dispose of older/dated equipment.

The Library is considering participating in a program funded by Coronavirus money to provide enhanced wi-fi access. The program is administered by the Connecticut Education Network (CEN). CEN would control the signal and filter for the first year, which raises open-access and privacy concerns, and these have to be weighed against the benefits to be derived from increasing internet access for residents. As far as other Coronavirus money that some Connecticut libraries received that was reported in the news, Wethersfield Library apparently was not eligible.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Outreach Committee met last week to discuss additional ways to connect with the community, in furtherance of the goals of the Strategic Plan. There was some discussion of the need to ensure that residents are aware of all the services being offered, in spite of the pandemic-related restrictions.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee will meet in November to begin the process of reviewing and revising Library policies. The date is scheduled for November 18th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hannah Granfield moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the process for conducting the Director's performance review. Laurie Wrona seconded. In a roll call vote, Martha Conneely, Amanda Drew, Mary Frazier, Hannah Granfield, George Kelly, Terry Santapaola, and Laurie Wrona voted in favor. The motion passed, 7-0.

The Board entered executive session at 7:45 and came out of executive session at 8:15.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Laurie Wrona moved to adjourn. Hannah Granfield seconded. In a roll call vote, Martha Conneely, Amanda Drew, Mary Frazier, Hannah Granfield, George Kelly, Terry Santapaola, and Laurie Wrona voted in favor. The motion passed, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
George Kelly, Provisional Acting Secretary