



Wethersfield Library

Wethersfield Library Board Meeting

VIRTUAL

October 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Began at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Martha Conneely, Chair, Laurie Wrona, Terry Santapaola (arrived at 7:14 p.m.), Hannah Granfield, Diane McAdams (arrived at 7:42 p.m.), Peter DeNegre, Michelle DiPaola and Amanda Drew

Also Present: Brook Berry, Library Director and Kevin Hill, Town Council Liaison

Absent: Kristen Michaels

Public Comment

None

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes: Library Board – September 28, 2021

Peter DeNegre voted to approve as presented, seconded by Laurie Wrona

Ayes: Martha Conneely, Laurie Wrona, Amanda Drew, Peter DeNegre, Michelle DiPaola

Abstain: Hannah Granfield

Motion carries.

Town Council Liaison Report

Kevin Hill reported that Town Council approved a DEEP grant to establish a process for Riverfront Recapture to link Windsor to Rocky Hill. It is still a work in progress. They also approved the search firm to be used for the Town Manager search. It will be the same firm used to find the Chief of Police. Also, approved a grant for parking in Old Wethersfield to expand the parking lot near the Fire Department (near community gardens). They also passed a resolution regarding Brainard Airport which was unanimous and bipartisan. Kevin answered a couple of follow up questions. Peter DeNegre spoke about his personal experience with dealing with the airport, his belief that they are not good neighbors and his disagreement with cutting the trees.

Chairman's Report

Next meeting will be December 7th – no November meeting. Brook shared a memo regarding in-person meetings. We will take it under advisement and put it on the agenda for December.

We had a very informative walk at Wintergreen Woods and if anyone who missed it want to schedule a time out, it can be planned.

Library Director's Report

Emergency Operations is still meeting and we are still in the orange category. Mask mandate ended on Friday which was against the advice of the Health Director. Well over 1/2 of people entering the Library continue to be masked, social distancing expected, seating is currently at a minimum. Looking toward the future in January we are looking to do some in-person programs, with limited capacity. We are in the process of clearing out some space to get ready. Virtual programs will still be available. Will vote whether to resume in person meetings.

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library will be having a Gift Basket Raffle starting September 10th through December. \$5 a ticket. They have sold over 90 tickets so far.

The Friends Membership campaign is still going forward.

In addition to funding programs they have expressed an interest in purchasing furniture for the Library as well as potentially purchasing additional canvases from entries of the Photo Contest submissions. If anyone on the Library Board is interesting in helping to make the selection, let Brook know.

Upcoming events include the paranormal author, pumpkin judging contest, magic of a winter garden, and spymistresses. The Children's library is Dinosaur themed for the month of November. Michelle DiPaola asked if we are able to host an event both in-person and virtual. Brook indicated that we could not do both but we take each program and its potential interest vs. social distancing requirements into consideration.

Brook met with the Interim TM, Bonnie Therrien. And will have another meeting with her re: capital improvement projects. We will be providing some Finance Department numbers for the Town Audit. An expenditure report is due end of October to the State Library. In addition, a different report, the State Library Annual Report is due 11/15 and staff is working hard on it.

Brook received the updated wage charts for the union employees and the wage increases should be inputted shortly. Retro pay will be back to July 1st.

There is a new software for room reservations and another new software for museum passes coming in the very near future.

Outreach Committee Report

Wintergreen Woods walk was a success and we are excited about the project and we should try to begin the process to move this project further. We will be bringing it to the Finance Committee to discuss further. This area has even more opportunities potentially available to us.

Finance Committee Report

Gift & Donations Policy is not ready to be brought to the Board yet since there was extensive discussion/revisions. In addition, Finance will discuss fine forgiveness and will be looking into capital improvement projects for the Library (i.e. teen area).

The Sjoman Account shows the withdrawal. Our operating budget is at 29% but there are about 2-3% set to be paid in the next few days. We are on target.

Next Finance Meeting is December 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session – Library Director Evaluation

Motion made by Hannah Granfield to move in Executive Session, seconded by Peter DeNegre at 7:47 p.m. Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

Came out of Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.

Motion made by Michelle DiPaola to accept the Director’s evaluation and give an increase salary of 5%, seconded by Peter DeNegre. Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

Motion made by Peter DeNegre to adjourn, seconded by Amanda Drew at 8:10 p.m. Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

Next meeting is December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Drew
Secretary