



# Wethersfield Library

Wethersfield Library Board  
December 7, 2021 – 7pm – Virtual  
Approved Minutes

**Members present:** Martha Conneely, Hannah Granfield, Laurie Wrona, Kristen Michaels, Michelle DiPaola

**Members excused:**

Peter Denegre, Terry Santapaola, Diane McAdams

**Others Present:** Brook Berry, Library Director, Kevin Hill Town Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Martha Conneely called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Michelle DiPaola moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting October 7, 2021 meeting. Laurie Wrona seconded.

In a roll call vote – approved, one abstained.

Abstained: Kristen Michaels

COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE

- Congratulations to Kevin Hill for being re-elected to town council. Happy to have him back!
- Not a lot of action at the council level as new members were just sworn in
- Ton of presentations from board/commissions to inform the new council members
- New chief of police – **Rafael Medina**
- Search for town manager – through March 2022. Long process.
- Lots of conversation regarding Brainard Airport
- Agreement 5/4 vote: – allows Brainard airport to come onto site to review agricultural, do analysis, etc.

LIBRARY BOARD CHAIRMAN

- Congratulations to Amanda Drew to Board of Education. Loss for the Library Board. Hoping to have a new member appointed by January 2022.
- New secretary needed – let Martha know if you are interested in this position.
- Special thanks for library for participation at Holiday on Main – congratulations to Anja who read her story at the event.
- Next meeting: January 25, 2022 – 7pm
- Resume in-person Library Board meetings – Vote
  - In support of the library staff and other commissions and boards who are meeting. Return to in person meetings in 2022.

- It is difficult to do a hybrid meeting. Library Board members will need to vote in one way (not some via phone/ in person).
- Public would need to come into meeting for public comment.
- There is space for the meetings to happen, safely.
- Board members discussed the benefits and downsides of coming back into person meetings and/or keeping things virtual.

Hannah Granfield made the following Motion to return to in person meetings on March 1, 2022.  
Michelle DiPaola seconded

In a roll call vote, all voted in favor - approved  
Abstained: None

The Library Board plans to discuss issue again at next meeting.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Friends of the Wethersfield Library - held a fundraiser for two baskets: \$800. – raised.
  - Friends looking to bring back to the donation bin starting in January. Library fields calls daily regarding the public asking to make book donations.
  - Looking into an April book sale
- Upcoming programing
  - Food and Mood program for adults
  - Teens escape room (online)
  - Children's – Winter Reading program – just started – Book Scouts
  - Positive feedback from the library board to the staff who worked on Dinovember
  - In January slowly entering in person program
- Covid Update
  - Looking to put additional seating on the floor, open up another booth
  - Continued conversation with Health Department to ensure safety and precautions, adjusting to the new paradigm, etc.
  - Covid has continued to impact the library – a strategic goal/initiative of the library's current strategic plan is make the library a comfortable place to visit, give out a wipe if necessary
  - Majority of staff have been vaccinated; masking is taking place, multiple staff meetings taking place, etc.
- State Library Report submitted and Numbers for Town Audit
- Capital Improvement Project – creating list of projects for the library; asking \$100,000 for interior redesign (for money to be put towards that). Additional list being created for ARPA money (just starting this process).
- Union staff received retro pay
- New Software for room reservations and museum passes – will go live 12/8 (Library Director demonstrated new software).

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Gift and Donation Policy Revision
  - Thank you to the Finance Committee for help on this
  - Michelle DiPaola made a motion to accept the updated gift and donation policy as of December 7, 2021. Laurie Wrona seconded.

In a roll call vote, all voted in favor - approved

Abstained: None

Brook also mentioned that the Farmington and Middletown Libraries would be joining the local consortium.

## ADJOURNMENT

Kristen Michael's motioned to adjourn. Michelle DiPaola seconded. In a roll call vote, all voted in favor - approved

Abstained: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Granfield