



# Wethersfield Library

Wethersfield Library Board Meeting

VIRTUAL

August 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Meeting Began at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Martha Conneely, Chair, Terry Santapaola, Laurie Wrona, Kristen Michaels, Hannah Granfield, Diane McAdams, Peter DeNegre, Michelle DiPaola (arrived 7:06 p.m.) and Amanda Drew

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

## Public Comment

None

## Additions/Changes to the Agenda

None

## Approval of Minutes: Library Board – July 27, 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, Terry Santapaola, Diane McAdams, Kristen Michaels

Motion carries.

## Nomination & Election of Officers

Laurie Wrona moved to elect a slate of candidates, seconded by Peter DeNegre

Martha Conneely for Chair

Hannah Granfield for Vice Chair

Amanda Drew for Secretary

No further nominations made. Denise McAdams moved to close nominations and elect the nominated candidates, seconded by Terry Santapaola. Roll call vote. Motion carried – unanimously.

## Town Council Liaison Report

Town Council had a special meeting last evening to vote on an emergency partial repair of the Highcrest roof as it needed to be complete before school begins. They also purchased 3 additional police cruisers, which were part of the budget passed this year. The larger discussion was about mask mandates. CCHD recommended a change in policy as the Wethersfield numbers went from the “yellow” category up to “red” just this week. This will start 08/31 to allow businesses to get signage and get more public knowledge on the mandate.

### Chairman's Report

A big thank you to Hannah Granfield and Amanda Drew for stepping up and volunteering for the executive board. Welcome to Diane McAdams and Kristen Michaels for joining us on the Board and we all look forward to meeting both of you off zoom and in person.

The Library Director's yearly evaluation is coming up and we will discuss further the logistics for the discussion in evaluation in the upcoming meeting.

We will be scheduling the Outreach Committee meeting to further discuss the StoryWalk. An open invitation to the entire board to walk the area. **Wintergreen Woods - October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. – meet in parking lot.**

### Library Director's Report

Heavy rains of late has caused some additional leaks in the roof. Physical Services is watching and correcting as necessary.

Discussion on the pandemic and the changes the Library will be implementing as cases increase. Because we took a slow and steady approach to opening, there isn't much we will be scaling back on. Masks will be now be worn and continue the 6 feet social distancing. In person meetings (first one scheduled for end of September) or in person programming (first one scheduled for October) will no longer take place as of now. Staff has begun to remove some seats in the library as the beginning of school approaches and this should help with mitigating the number of students coming in after school. Brook is cautiously optimistic that the students will be compliant as the school year continues.

The Library is moving forward with the re-implementation of fines, opening up on Sundays starting in October, and the fast lane books are coming back.

### Friends of the Library

They will be having a Gift Basket Raffle starting September 10<sup>th</sup> through December. \$5 a ticket.

No booksale this fall. As such, we can not accept donations of any new materials until FOL has their first event, hopefully in the Spring.

### Programming

Summer Reading is still in full swing and many are cramming in their final selections before school begins.

Upcoming virtual author visit in September with best-selling author Martha Hall Kelly.

### IT Issues

Moved the cloud with a patron software – Deepfreeze.

Also three IT companies are working to resolve issues with the Self Check machines

### Finance Committee Report

Review of the financials of the two Schwab accounts – no comments

Brook updated on the operating budget indicating we are currently 17% spent for the fiscal year – which is on target.

The ARPA money has arrived (\$20,731) and will be used for items such as water bubblers and a charging stations. The money needs to be spent by March 2022 and we will be updated as it progresses.

### Sjoman Account

Martha Conneely provided background on the history and purpose of the account. The original endowment was \$282,000 and we are currently at approximately \$344,000. There is a cap of \$300,000 as a base not to be

touched but the Finance Committee is currently discussing increasing said base. Tonight we are looking to withdraw some of the money. Because of the safety precautions in place, there is an involved process of taking the money out so the Library Director would like to begin this process in order to realize the gain before concrete plans are presented to expend the money. Andrew Salak, the Library Financial Advisor believes the growth of the fund will continue and was not against the idea of the withdrawal. Peter DeNegre commented he was in agreement in using the money and appreciates the restraint in not spending the entire amount of the actual gain. He asked if there were any ideas for the funds. Brook indicated that one of the strategic initiatives of the Library is “Celebrate Diversity” but the Library does not really have materials in languages other than English and would like to bring in a collection in Spanish or another language that the Wethersfield public might use.

Peter DeNegre motions to withdraw \$20,000 from the Sjoman account based on the June 30, 2021 statement, seconded by Hannah Granfield.

Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

Next Finance Meeting is September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Hannah Granfield to adjourn, seconded by Laurie Wrona. Motion carries – unanimously.

**Next meeting is September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Drew  
Secretary