



Wethersfield Library

Wethersfield Library Board Meeting
VIRTUAL
September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Began at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Martha Conneely, Chair, Terry Santapaola, Laurie Wrona, Kristen Michaels, Diane McAdams, Michelle DiPaola and Amanda Drew

Also Present: Brook Berry, Library Director and Kevin Hill, Town Council Liaison (arrived 7:06 p.m.)

Absent: Peter Gillespie, Hannah Granfield

Public Comment

None

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes: Library Board – July 27, 2021

Terry Santapaola voted to approve, seconded by Diane McAdams with the correction to Diane McAdams names under nominations.

Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Report

Town Council had two meetings including the special meeting last night to accept the resignation of the Town Manager, Gary Evans, effective September 30th and to appoint the interim Town Manager, Bonnie Therrien for a 120 day period while they go out for a search for a permanent manager. A question about the police chief search was asked and he reported that they have narrowed it down to 2 and are in negotiations with the top candidate. He hopes we will know next week.

Chairman's Report

Special thanks to Gary Evans and his support of the Library Board. We wish him luck on all his future endeavors. The forum for the future Chief was well attended and she spoke to each candidate that evening.

Thank you to Brook and staff for dealing with the continued pandemic and having such a high level of service during these trying times.

Discussed the calendar of meetings for 2022. The 02/22/22 meeting is the day after President's Day (which school is closed) and may be postponed to 03/01/22 since it will be an important budget meeting. It is too early to make that decision but keep it on your radar. Also, 9/27/22 is the 2nd night Rosh Hashanah.

Laurie Wrona moved to accept the 2022 calendar as presented, seconded by Kristen Michaels. Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

There will be a walkthrough of Wintergreen Woods on October 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Finance Committee Meeting will be October 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Library Director's Report

Emergency Operations is still holding meetings and they believe Wethersfield will be bouncing from red to orange for the foreseeable future. A positive highlight was the vaccine rate in town is high.

The teens have been great with masking in the library but are still not adhering to strict social distancing and Brook worries about increased traffic as the weather changes. The Library attended the SDMS Virtual Back to School night and school staff spoke about the library, its use and expectations with the parents which was well received.

Looking to reinstitute the fines and looking into waiving fines pre-pandemic. Brook indicated that 20% of fines are \$1 or less but this will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

Still on target to resume small in-person programs in January. Our Sunday hours of 1-5pm will begin this week.

On Saturday September 25th The Friends of the Library had their first in person meeting outdoors! They will be having a Gift Basket Raffle starting September 10th through December. \$5 a ticket. All are encouraged to purchase a raffle ticket. Book Nook has restarted and they are in the middle of their membership campaign. In addition to helping to fund library programming, the Friends expressed interest in donating money towards furnishings.

Also on this past Saturday, the Library participated in the WEF Harvest Fair at Kycia Farms. It was a great event to reach out to the community and promote the Library. Amanda Drew was present and spoke about the event and the popularity of the table with the children and parents.

Brook indicated that we are in the middle of the recruitment process for the Children's Librarian.

Brook was also on one of the panels for the WPD Chief interviews. She thought it was a great panel and had a good selection of candidates.

Social Justice Coalition presented about the Library and what we do and how we are free and equitable to the entire community.

Library Connection (the library consortium) is providing EDI training for their Board of Directors, which Brook is a part of. In addition Library staff have also attended EDI training specifically related to the library's collections, and how to conduct an audit.

Brook has been working with CIRMA regarding best practices for slip and falls, premises issues and workers' compensation. She is also working to update the labor contracts and is waiting on the final wage charts to process the employees pay increases.

The dumpster has come and they are constantly weeding the collection.

We will be having popular events at the Library this month, including learning to draw manga for teens, pumpkin judging contest for the children and a paranormal author for adults.

To update on finances, the \$20,000 has not hit the statement from the Sjoman account yet. In addition, the Library is 23% spent out on the operating budget, which is under, but items such as health insurance and pension will be completely encumbered at some point.

Executive Session – Library Director Evaluation

Motion made by Diane McAdams to go into executive session, seconded by Michelle DiPaola at 7:41 p.m. Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

Came out of Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.

Motion made by Michelle DiPaola to adjourn, seconded by Laurie Wrona. Roll call vote. Motion carries – unanimously.

Next meeting is October 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Drew
Secretary