



Acton Public Library
60 Old Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2022

Attendance - Members present: Amanda Brouwer (Library Director), Alan Schwarz (Vice Chairperson), Nathan Wise (Treasurer), Susan Mariani (Corresponding Secretary), Michael Cameron, Mary Delmonico, Susan Hitchcock Missel, MaryAnn Iadarola, and Ann Derouaux-Welch. Absent (*notified, **did not notify): Nancy Walsh*. Others: Mandy Merritt (Board Recorder).

- 1. Call to Order** - Vice Chairperson Schwarz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 2. Approval of Minutes** - The APLB meeting minutes of January 11, 2022 were reviewed. A motion was made by Ann Derouaux-Welch and seconded by Nathan Wise to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

The Logo Sub-Committee meeting minutes of January 19, 2022 were reviewed. A motion was made by Ann Derouaux-Welch and seconded by MaryAnn Iadarola to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

The Logo Sub-Committee meeting minutes of January 27, 2022 were reviewed. A motion was made by MaryAnn Iadarola and seconded by Sue Mariani to approve the minutes. All were in favor.
- 3. Public Comment** - None
- 4. Acceptance of Financial Report** - Director Brouwer mentioned an increase in use of Hoopla which might require an adjustment to the number of items allowed per user. Ann Derouaux-Welch, commended Director Brouwer on her excellent presentation to the town Finance Committee, and the entire APL Board joined in, complimenting her work there. A motion was made by Sue Mariani and seconded by Mary Delmonico to approve the Financial Report as presented. All were in favor.
- 5. Acceptance of Non-Town Fund Report** - Director Brouwer mentioned the status of the ARPA grant spending and the additional items to be purchased within these funds. There was also clarification of specific categories that are taken care of by town funding. A motion was made by Mary Delmonico and seconded by MaryAnn Iadarola to accept the Non-Town Fund Report as presented. All were in favor.
- 6. Acceptance of Statistics Report** - Director Brouwer mentioned the increase in use of the physical collection and a decrease in digital collection borrowing, and within LION book sharing is active. A new statistic is being provided for the children's touch screen use. The new locker system is currently being set up for use. The recent cold and icy weather has impacted traffic inside the library and when the weather cleared a bit, there was a flurry of activity in the library.

A motion was made by MaryAnn Iadarola and seconded by Ann Derouaux-Welch to approve the Statistics Report as presented. All were in favor.

7. **Correspondences** - Director Brouwer received an email from the Town Finance Director complimenting Director Brouwer's presentation to the Finance Board.
8. **Library Director's Report** - Director Brouwer began her report with mention of the open maintenance role due to a staff (Wayne) member's retirement. Nathan mentioned that Wayne had saved the library from a fire disaster last year. The Open House event notices have been sent. Amanda brought up the library's goals. Sue Mariani asked for clarification of what is expected of the Board members related to the goals. With discussion, the Board understood their role is to support the staff's goal-related initiatives by attending the meetings, volunteering at the events and, when out in the community, talking about the library's initiatives. The Board was very impressed with the staff's list of creative initiatives related to the goals. There was discussion about Amanda making a presentation to the Rotary Club. Nathan provided additional details about the Rotary Club activities and community support. The Policy Subcommittee will be meeting to talk about the new board member orientation. The Feasibility study is moving forward. The logo subcommittee researched ways to proceed. The Children's report highlighted crafts, monthly story times online, take-your-child-to-the-library day activities, The teens/young adults report spotlighted gaming, summer reading and music-related activities.
9. **Friend's Report** - Nathan informed the Board of the January Friends meeting topics including a \$2000 grant, membership funds, various library programs, ways to increase book sales at the next sale March 25-26. Nathan highlighted a significant donation of history books. The Friends will be donating lightweight tables to the library. At the April meeting there will be an officers election and a special 'Robert Frost' presentation. Amanda provided a detailed report to the Friends regarding the library's activities.
10. **Old Business** - none.
11. **New Business** - Amanda called out some historical statistics that may not be logical due to the extreme fluctuations in numbers. Looking forward, Amanda underscored that the impact of the building redesign, the great programs and external landscaping will be inviting and spark increased interest in what is going on at the library.
12. **Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ann Derouaux-Welch and seconded by MaryAnn Iadarola. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mandy Merritt, *Board Recorder*