



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

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2022

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

1. **Call to Order** - Chairperson Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **Architectural Feasibility Study** - Chairperson Walsh provided a brief review of the historical timeline for this project up to today. Director Brouwer refreshed the board members on the agreed upon goals and strategic plan. Henry Myerberg talked through the feasibility study document with visuals of the ideas and potential options. He encouraged the board members to add their thoughts, concerns and ideas to be included and considered in the study. After discussion about the decision-making process, various issues with the current library design and how to prioritize the changes, the board agreed to schedule another meeting to discuss further.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The APLB meeting minutes of April 12, 2022 were reviewed. A motion was made by Nathan Wise and seconded by Ann Derouaux-Welch to accept the minutes with the name correction (Emma, should be Emily) in section 8. Susan Mariani abstained. All were in favor.

The Logo Sub-Committee meeting minutes of April 14, 2022 were reviewed. A motion was made by Nathan Wise and seconded by Alan Schwarz to accept the minutes. All were in favor.

4. **Public Comment** - None

5. **Acceptance of Financial Report** - Susan Hitchcock Missel asked about the building funds budget and cleaning line items. Director Brouwer explained the heat pump expenditure, broken window seal and cleaning supplies. A motion was made by Nathan Wise and seconded by Alan Schwarz to accept the Financial Report as presented. All were in favor.

6. **Acceptance of Non-Town Fund Report** - Chairperson Walsh asked for removal of the line items with small negative amounts leftover. Director Brouwer explained the use and allocation of ARPA grant funds. A motion was made by Nathan Wise and seconded by Ann Derouaux-Welch to accept the Non-Town Fund Report. All were in favor.

7. **Acceptance of Statistics Report** - Director Brouwer mentioned an error in the system from another library which impacted some of the statistics. Inter-library loan statistics are up, computer sessions and computer classes are very popular. Director Brouwer made a comparison of current visitors vs quantity of summer visitors, suggesting that the visitor statistics relative to the impact of covid continues to increase. Director Brouwer indicated that statistics for use of the new lockers are not

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

8. Correspondences - None.

9. Library Director's Report - Director Brouwer informed the board of her attendance at the annual library conference. Also, she informed the board of the Town's Poet Laureate's upcoming resignation and discussed the process for bringing on a new poet laureate. 3D printing training and summer reading program planning is taking place. Staff well-being concerns, how to manage burnout in stressful times. New janitor has started for the town, including service for the library. When the 3D printer policy is released, 3D printer training and use can begin. Director Brouwer mentioned the continued popularity of the penpals, the walking group starting soon, and a full pastel class. In the Children's Report, there was mention of the baby event popularity, and outside group activities. Alan wondered if the library might be able to assist locally during the baby formula shortage. Various toys that were removed due to covid, can now be used again. The library is looking for more teen volunteers. There was excited anticipation of the summer reading plans and prize. Plans for a variety of upcoming music-related events. Mention of, and invitation to, the festive summer reading event June 25, 1-3pm with games, food trucks, etc.

10. Friend's Report - At the meeting they discussed that donations equal membership in The Friends. There will not be a bake sale until November, museum passes were discussed, and planning has started for The Friends' holiday season activities for the community with coordination with the garden club. Emily presented upcoming children's programs, Nathan announced the library's Memorial Day float, Emily was asked to develop a children's section for the next Friend's book sale. The Friend's annual meeting will be May 26. The next meeting will be in August or September.

11. Old Business -

Logo subcommittee update was given by MaryAnn Iadarola, with an explanation of why a new logo was needed and the process used to select a logo design firm. Nancy Walsh updated the board on who attended the meeting and the comprehensive process that the logo design firm used to develop the brand. The subcommittee and design firm had many discussions throughout the process. MaryAnn explained the timing, expectations, and the reasons for the meaningful design decisions. Director Brouwer highlighted the flexibility of the new brand guidelines and use of the specified colors along with the bold recognizable approach and the consistent use of a specific font. There was a lively discussion sharing perspectives, feedback, concerns and functional use of the new design. A motion to accept the logo was made by Ann Derouaux-Welch and seconded by Susan Mariani. Seven members approved. One member opposed. One member absent. Motion passed.

No policy subcommittee update.

Memorial Day Parade update - Susan Mariani asked who would be participating on the day of the parade and the day before for the set-up. There was discussion about the messages on the banners and creation of shirts with the new logo for the board members.

12. New Business - Nathan Wise made a motion requesting the board secretary send a Get Well card to Mary Delmonico. Alan Schwarz made the second. All were in favor.

13. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ann Derouaux-Welch and seconded by Alan Schwarz. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mandy Merritt
Board Recorder