



**ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**60 Old Boston Post Road Old Saybrook, CT 06475 (860)395-3184**

**Acton Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.  
Friends Conference Room  
60 Old Boston Post Road**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson N. Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Members present:** N. Walsh (Chairperson), A. Schwarz (Vice-Chairman), N. Wise (Treasurer), S. Mariani (Corresponding Secretary), M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola

**Members absent** (\*notified, \*\*did not notify): S. Hitchcock Missel \*

**Staff:** A. Brouwer (Library Director); J. Galli (Recording Clerk)

**In attendance:** N. Prescott, Co-President of Friends

**A. Election of 2024 - 2026 APLB officers**

The nomination deadline was January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Four candidates self-nominated for the Board officer positions by the deadline.

<p><b>MOTION</b> to accept the nominees for the 2-year term of 2024-2026 as presented <b>MADE:</b> M.A. Iadarola <b>SECONDED:</b> A. Derouaux-Welch <b>VOTING IN FAVOR:</b> N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola <b>OPPOSED:</b> None <b>ABSTAINING:</b> None <b>MOTION APPROVED:</b> 8-0-0.</p>
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A paper ballot was used in the election. Eight members were present and eight ballots were received. The recording clerk announced that each nominated officer was elected by a majority of those present and voting. The elected officers for the 2024-2026 APLB are:

Nancy Walsh Chairperson  
Alan Schwarz Vice Chairman  
Nathan Wise Treasurer  
Susan Mariani Secretary

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION** to approve the **Meeting Minutes** of December 12, 2023 as presented **MADE:** M. Cameron **SECONDED:** S. Mariani **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** of December 19, 2023 as presented **MADE:** M.A. Iadarola **SECONDED:** A. Derouaux-Welch **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Building Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** of December 21, 2023 amended this evening with the correct spelling of Mary Delmonico **MADE:** M. Cameron **SECONDED:** A. Schwarz **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

## 4. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Fifty-four percent of the total budget has been expended so far. An extra expense for this month was the repair of the dividing wall. An electrician will be called in to see why the back parking lot is darker than usual.

**MOTION** to accept the **Financial Report** as presented **MADE:** M. Delmonico **SECONDED:** M.A. Iadarola **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

## 5. ACCEPTANCE OF NON-TOWN FUND REPORT

The general gift fund and renovation fund accounts have been moved over to interest-bearing accounts.

**MOTION** to accept the **Non-Town Fund Report** as presented **MADE:** A. Schwarz **SECONDED:** A. Derouaux-Welch **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

## 6. ACCEPTANCE OF STATISTICS REPORT

The library was closed for five days due to the holidays. Circulation is up across the board with the highest increase being Overdrive Magazines at 446% over last year. The Wi-Fi was used by approximately 2,000 patrons. No one used curbside service this month. Event attendance was good. Bread baking was postponed due to inclement weather.

**MOTION** to accept the **Statistics Report** as presented **MADE:** M. Delmonico **SECONDED:** M. Cameron **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None  
**MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

## 7. **CORRESPONDENCES**

An email was received from the Community Foundation of Middlesex regarding Traveling Toys. They stated that it was a wonderful opportunity for children and thanked all involved to make Traveling Toys a success, including Guilford Savings Bank.

## 8. **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Ct State Library statistics show that 127 libraries no longer charge late fees for books and DVDs. The Lyme Libraries collection has been loaded into LION. The complimentary toiletries available in the lower-level bathrooms have been very popular. The library will continue to assess the need and how to fund this project. Approximately 44% of Old Saybrook's population have library cards. In December, 36 new cards were issued.

During the month of December, 23 adult programs were offered with 195 attending. The most popular programs were the History of Maritime Knitting with 23 attending and Cut the Cord and Start Streaming with 24 attendees. The cookbook club will be focusing on a different cuisine each month starting with Chinese in January.

The children's library hosted 12 programs with 482 participants. The Scavenger Hunt continues to be a winner. The "Guessing" jar had 58 guesses. 220 people visited the library's booth at the Starlight Festival. The annual Gingerbread House Decorating event attracted over 50 people. The annual Season of Books provided 17 families with books. The Noon Year's Eve in a Bag provided mini celebrations for 50 children.

YA is getting more volunteers. Brian has been busy with Tech Time at both the library and the Estuary. Cellist educator and performer Ryan Mitten performed in the main lobby.

## 9. **FRIEND'S REPORT**

N. Prescott discussed the Essex Savings Bank Community Re-investment Program. Patrons of the bank may vote in person at any branch of Essex Savings Bank or online beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>. For online voting go to <https://www.essexsavings.com/about/community-investment-program/>  
The library received approximately \$650 last year.

The next meeting of the Friends is January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M.

## 10. **OLD BUSINESS**

### A. **Communication subcommittee update**

N. Walsh discussed the work put into getting the language correct in the FAQ's sheet that was developed as a tool to talk about the renovation project. The Board discussed that the funds required to complete the project needed to include contingencies and furniture.

**B. Building subcommittee update**

Brouwer went over the projected schedule with the architectural firm. They discussed all the pieces that have to be put into place to finish a project of this magnitude.

11. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting of January 9, 2024 at 7:48 P.M. to the next scheduled meeting of **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.** in the Main 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room as presented **MADE:** N. Wise **SECONDED:** A. Schwarz **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Galli  
Recording Clerk