



**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, February 13, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.  
Via Zoom (due to closure of library/weather)**

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

Chairperson N. Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:32 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, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola

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

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** to approve the **Meeting Minutes** of January 9, 2024 as presented **MADE:** N. Wise **SECONDED:** M.A. Iadarola **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 9-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** of January 19, 2024 as presented **MADE:** A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED:** A. Schwarz **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 9-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** of January 23, 2024 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, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 9-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Joint Communication/Building Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** of February 2, 2024 amended this evening with the correct spelling of Mary Delmonico **MADE:** M.A. Iadarola **SECONDED:** A. Schwarz **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 9-0-0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

4. **ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

The back parking lot lights weren't working due to rodent damage. The repair bill will be close to \$3,000. LION is paid quarterly; we now have one bill left for the year. Amanda said that a new part-time reference clerk needs to be incorporated into the budget.

**MOTION** to accept the **Financial Report** as presented **MADE:** A. Schwarz **SECONDED:** M.A. Iadarola **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None  
**MOTION APPROVED:** 9-0-0.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF NON-TOWN FUND REPORT**

Amanda clarified some of the account information. The renovation fund, which is gaining interest, is at \$120,495.

**MOTION** to accept the **Non-Town Fund Report** as presented **MADE:** A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED:** M.A. Iadarola **VOTING IN FAVOR** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 9-0-0.

6. **ACCEPTANCE OF STATISTICS REPORT**

Circulation is up across the board with Overdrive Magazine seeing a substantial increase over last year. Being that Hoopla is close to budget already, the Board discussed limiting checkouts to five per month. Homebound made eleven deliveries this month. Storytime continues to pull in many people from other towns as well as Old Saybrook. The meeting rooms were used by 69 outside groups that brought in 319 people.

**MOTION** to accept the **Statistics Report** as presented **MADE:** M. Cameron **SECONDED:** A. Schwarz **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None  
**MOTION APPROVED:** 9-0-0.

7. **CORRESPONDENCES** – None

8. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Nancy Walsh presented an overview of the Renovation Capital Campaign's current funding plan. She stated the participation of the APLB members in the fundraising is critical to the success of the renovation project. The Renovation Building and Communication subcommittees approved the Renovation Capital Campaign goal of \$1,250,000, over a 3-year period. Thanks to the Tucker Fund and individual donations, the Library currently has \$1,300,000 of the \$2,000,000 required to match the CT State Grant. She stated that the RCC needs to immediately raise the additional

\$700,000 to match the state grant to move forward with the renovation construction phase of the project. First Selectman Carl Fortuna has committed municipal funds as well, but the two million match must come from non-town donations.

## 9. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Amanda stated that our expenditures are on par with other towns in the same wealth rankings. The price for the heat pumps have come in over budget with excess monies being taken out of the repairs budget. More money has been budgeted for next year. The budget for FY25 has dropped by six thousand due to a miscalculation.

During the month of January, 26 adult programs were offered with 306 attending. The "Bread Girl" demonstrated how to make challah bread and gave the 20+ participants a loaf to take home. 20+ also participated in the Tonalism vs. Impressionism landscape painting class presented by the Florence Griswold Museum staff, sponsored by the Friends. Emily's tech class, Managing Your Passwords also had 20+ attending. Mexican Train & Rummikub had a combined total of 35 attending. We had 23 participants in our 2nd Annual Jigsaw Puzzle competition.

The children's library hosted 23 programs with 746 participants. In its first month, the Toy Lending Library which has a collection of 30 lendable toys, has had 67 checkouts. We partnered with Old Saybrook Garden Club to create Glow and Grow Terrariums. The Garden Club will be back in April for Earth Day. Big Y brought fresh vegetables to our first Grub Club of the winter. The Teddy Bear Sleepover was a success.

YA is getting more volunteers that are helping with children's programming. Brian and Emily have been so busy with Tech Time they're considering adding more. Four families had fun playing with the classics in Intergenerational Paint Night. Open Mic Night continues to be popular.

## 10. FRIEND'S REPORT

Nathan Wise presented. The Friends met on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Amanda gave a report to the Friends on the renovation and funds needed. She also talked about providing toiletries in the rest rooms. The Friends voted to give \$1,000 toward the toiletries. Nathan mentioned the Essex Savings Bank Community Re-investment Program. Patrons of the bank may vote in person or online at any <https://www.essexsavings.com/about/community-investment-program/>

The next quarterly meeting: April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M.

Annual meeting: May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 P.M.

The next book sale is scheduled for June 27 – 29.

## 11. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Subcommittee updates

1. The Communications Committee met with Krista May, Managing Director of The Ivoryton Playhouse who discussed ways to fundraise. Krista stressed the importance of following up with contacts. She said that it is important for the Board members to fundraise and help out financially. The Committee discussed setting up a "Capital Campaign Advisory Board."

2. There was a joint meeting of the Communications and Building Committees on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. They came up with the tag line of “Help us turn the page.” They are in the process of refining the FAQs and developing a post card to send to residents. Michael is working on a lighthouse kiosk for donations. They are trying to figure out how to add electronic donations to the kiosk as well. They decided that the committee would function by bringing all ideas to the committee and making decisions at the meetings. Their Capital Campaign fundraising goal was set at \$1,250,000.

12. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

<p><b>MOTION</b> to adjourn the meeting of February 13, 2024 at 7:38 P.M. to the next scheduled meeting of <b>Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.</b> in the Main 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room as presented <b>MADE:</b> N. Wise <b>SECONDED:</b> A. Schwarz <b>VOTING IN FAVOR:</b> N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, M.A. Iadarola <b>OPPOSED:</b> None <b>ABSTAINING:</b> None <b>MOTION APPROVED:</b> 9-0-0.</p>
--

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Galli  
Recording Clerk