

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

**Acton Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson N. Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:29 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, M.A. Iadarola, A. Derouaux-Welch

**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 **Board Meeting Minutes** of Tuesday, September 10, 2024 as amended to add the name Ruby Lou to 8. Board Chair’s Report – Deborah is the daughter of William Tucker who years ago set up a $500,000 matching fund in honor of his wife, **Ruby Lou.** **MADE**: MA Iadarola **SECONDED**: M. Delmonico **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, M.A. Iadarola, S. Mariani, A. Derouaux-Welch **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Library Renewal Committee Meeting Minutes** of Friday, September 6, 2024 as presented **MADE**: A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED**: M. Cameron **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, M.A. Iadarola, S. Mariani, A. Derouaux-Welch **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**3. Public Comment –** None

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

The library subscribes to Value Line, a print resource that provides investment research on companies, industries, markets and economies for timely information on stocks, mutual funds, etc., but it is being underutilized. Options discussed were finding another brand of financial information or utilize the $1,025 elsewhere. The discussion will continue next month after Amanda does some research.

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

**MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**5. Acceptance of Non-Town Fund Report**

The Friends allocated ten thousand dollars in two installments to be used for the Chief Development Officer’s salary (Victoria Miller), and it is time for the second installment. Amanda will reach out to Carl Fortuna and Lee Ann Palladino to see if we can get town funds to help pay Victoria’s salary as well. ARPA has yet to remove the $100,000 they originally allocated to the library’s renovation fund. Because we won’t break ground on the renewal before the end of the year the money may need to get allocated elsewhere. Nancy will meet with Bruce Carlson, Chair of ARPA and the Board of Finance, to find out our account status and what the rules are for receiving the money. We currently have $156,589 in our Renovation fund that has earned $6,631 in interest. This is in addition to the Tucker fund.

**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, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, M.A. Iadarola, S. Mariani, A. Derouaux-Welch **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**6. ACCEPTANCE OF STATISTICS REPORT**

Circulation of adult books and e-books are down. Our tech appointments continue in popularity so much so that Channel 3 News came in to interview Emily, Brian and patrons for a story about empowering older adults to become more confident with technology including computers and streaming services. According to the interviews, Tech Time has opened new horizons for this community. Hoopla’s costs continue to be a concern for the library. Even with reducing the usage per patron and adding money to this line item, we expect to come in over budget this year. Other libraries are having this same issue with no resolution in sight. Lawn games were put away for the colder months. Weeding is still continuing. The library now has Tonieboxes, a screen-free audio system for children 3+ that plays music, stories and learning content through figurines.

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

**7. CORRESPONDENCES**

A letter was received from a patron grateful for the loan of a Wi-Fi hotspot, stating that “this is a truly fantastic service.”

**8. BOARD CHAIR’S REPORT**

Nancy provided to the Board copies of articles written in 1999 regarding the strides made in raising money for the last renovation/expansion project.

**9. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECT**

The Fundraising Launch Party will commence on Thursday, December 5th. There will be multiple renewal presentations shown along with refreshments. Amanda encouraged the Board to attend to answer any questions that patrons may have. The Grenadier, the car chosen for the fundraising raffle, will be onsite. The raffle will begin on Giving Tuesday, which is December 3rd.

The Grenadier will also be available to view at Goodwin’s Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 20th from 11 – 2 in Goodwin’s parking lot. We are waiting to hear back from Brett at The Kate to reserve a date for the Comedy Show fundraiser. If anyone would like to hear about the renewal and/or fundraising events, please send contact information to Victoria at [vmiller@actonlibrary.org](mailto:vmiller@actonlibrary.org)

**10. LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The library took part in Middlesex Health’s goPINK fundraising campaign, which raises money to provide free integrative medicine therapy to cancer patients, by purchasing and decorating a wooden duck to help raise awareness of early cancer detection. Members of the public will be able to vote for their favorite duck at <https://middlesexhealth.org/donate/gopink/what-the-duck/what-the-duck> and will be entered to win prizes.

During the month of September, 37 adult programs were offered with 285 attending. The new meet-up Mondays, where adults can come and play games, color, do a puzzle and socialize has been popular with approximately 10 attending each week. Saturday Cinema is back, *Boys in the Boat* had 15 in attendance. Thirty-eight new library cards were issued. The state annual report was submitted on October 1st. Fire extinguishers have been filled.

**Coming Up in October**:

* October 23 Volunteer Breakfast
* October 29 The History of Halloween

The children’s library hosted 17 events with 700 participants. Our 1000 Books before Kindergarten continues to gain momentum, this past month our first two kids reached 1,000. Grub Club/Big Y provided fruits for participants to learn about and taste.

**Upcoming for kids**:

* One Book, One Town
* Boo Bash
* Pumpkin Painting

Brian attended Camp Hazen, and has worked with Heather McNeill and other town educators to craft a program to make incoming freshmen more at ease and to help them push through social and personal fears. Fifteen participated in last month’s All Ages Paint Night to decorate fairy doors. AA will return again in January to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The teen display focuses on teen mental health. The Oneup Games has become a regular treat for Brian, the kids and the neighboring YA librarians who recently got together in Madison. Henna artist Jamilah will return end of October. Dungeons and Dragons continues in a Friday afternoon club version.

**11. FRIEND’S REPORT**

The next book sale is slated for Friday November 22 - Saturday November 23. The Friends are looking for donations of paperbacks, trade books, DVDs and puzzles. The next quarterly meeting is October 23rd at 11 A.M., following the volunteer breakfast.

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Subcommittee Updates -** the September 6th Library Renewal Committee minutes reflect what’s going on including the open house/launch party and car raffle planning. Mike Cameron has graciously volunteered to come up with a prototype for a mini lighthouse to be sold as a fundraiser item at the open house.
2. **Quilt Project Update –** In memory of Michele Van Epps, her friends from Colgate University raised $1250 to create a quilt in her honor eight years ago. Karen Giugno reached out to the artist to find out the status. The quilt, which is designed to be 6’ x 9’, is still being made. The Board has concerns about the size of the quilt and the lack of space to display it. Nancy and Karen will speak with the creator to possibly reduce the size.

**13. NEW BUSINESS –** None.

**14.** **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting of **Tuesday, October 8, 2024** at 7:21 P.M. to the next scheduled meeting of **Tuesday, November 12, 2024** at **6:30 P.M.** in the Friends Conference Room as presented **MADE**: A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED**: M. Delmonico **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, N. Wise, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, M.A. Iadarola, S. Mariani, A. Derouaux-Welch **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Galli

Recording Clerk