



**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, December 12, 2023 – 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), N. Wise (Treasurer), S. Mariani (Corresponding Secretary), M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, A. Schwarz

**Members absent** (\*notified, \*\*did not notify): M.A. Iadarola\*

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

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** to approve the **Meeting Minutes** of November 14, 2023 as presented **MADE:** S. Mariani **SECONDED:** M. Delmonico **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, A. Schwarz **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Renovation Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** of November 8, 2023 amended to show correct spelling of Ann Derouaux-Welch; November 15, 2023 and November 29, 2023 as presented **MADE:** N. Wise **SECONDED:** M. Cameron **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, A. Schwarz **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

A. Brouwer submitted a preliminary FY25 budget to the Finance Department. Brouwer and E. Sheehan will present the library's budget to the Finance Board on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 A.M. at Town Hall. Projected cost for next year's heat pumps will increase substantially. The elevator had repairs done.

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

## 5. ACCEPTANCE OF NON-TOWN FUND REPORT

The Assistant Finance Director is in discussion with A. Brouwer about consolidating the gift accounts into a renovation fund. The State Library Board has awarded Acton two-million-dollars for the renovation, however, the library needs to raise one million dollars in order to receive the grant. The Board agreed that it's important to recognize major donors. The Traveling Toys are being catalogued and lending will begin in January.

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

## 6. ACCEPTANCE OF STATISTICS REPORT

Over 31,000 patrons have come into the library this year with close to 6,000 attending events. Circulation of adult, children and YA are all up, computer usage is up and general library use in other areas has increased as well.

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

## 7. CORRESPONDENCES

N. Wise reported that he received word of Walter Hirsch's passing. Walter was Board Chairman during the last renovation, working closely with Library Director J. Crozier on planning and fundraising. He was instrumental in receiving a one-million-dollar gift from his friend, Jim Tucker, who wanted to honor his wife Ruby's 20 years of service on the Board – an endowment for the exclusive use of the Library. He was also chairman of the Building Committee for The Kate. N. Walsh received the news with great sadness and will see that proper condolences are sent on behalf of the Board.

## 8. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brouwer talked about how amazing the charity knitters are with all the items they create for the community. The library will be closed December 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

During the month of November, 25 adult programs were offered with 219 attending. The most popular program was Amelia Earhart: Pioneer in Aviation presented by Sheryl Faye. Sheryl will be back in May 2024 to portray Helen Keller.

## Coming up:

- **January 9** - Eileen Unger-Pleines, The Bread Girl, will teach participants how to make a mini braided challah bread that they will take home to bake.
- **January 16** - Florence Griswold educator, Sam Swap, will present “The History Behind Tonalism and Impressionism.” Sam will teach participants about the nuances of each style and lead a landscape painting project that involves both.
- **January 27** - the 2nd Jigsaw Puzzle Competition sponsored by the Friends of Acton. Teams of 4 will compete to complete a 500-piece puzzle. The winning team will receive a gift card to a local business.

The children’s library hosted 11 programs with 346 participants. STEM Day was a success, the kids took apart devices, coded robots, created catapults and paper airplanes, and also tried their hand at food science by making butter. Students from Goodwin Elementary decorated snowflakes for the Children’s Room. Classes from St. John School came to visit before the library opened. They had a tour, asked questions and were able to play and explore. Upcoming children’s events include Gingerbread Houses 12/16, Teddy Bear sleepover 12/28 and Noon Year’s to go 12/30.

YA is having a great time with Open Mic Night. The “Screen Test Workshop” with Lisa Lelas was well attended. Upcoming displays will include December’s aviation, comfort and food-centered titles. The Giving Tree Exchange and Reception will be held on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 with a return of Cellist educator and performer Ryan Mitten for eclectic Holiday stylings. Light refreshments will be served as we celebrate the season and swap ornaments with intentions on the big tree. Bring an ornament to swap or make one.

## 9. FRIEND’S REPORT

N. Wise presented. The Friends raised \$2,800 at their November book sale. The next meeting is January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M.

## 10. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Report on Torchlight Parade

S. Mariani presented along with the other Board members who attended saying that the weather was great and the crowds cheering was even better. A parade attendee mentioned to N. Walsh that the Library’s float was the best float in the parade. Walsh thanked the parade committee for their hard work.

### B. Renovation Communication subcommittee update

#### 1. FAQs of Renovation: Presentation to Board

Brouwer and Children’s Director E. Sheehan are working on a video about the renovation. The Committee is planning a series of “talks” to be used at informational meetings. A. Derouaux-Welch discussed a brochure to raise awareness of the renovation. The Subcommittee presented the Board with a FAQs sheet and are requesting feedback to be sent to Brouwer.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 schedule of APLB meeting dates

**MOTION** to approve the **2024 schedule of APLB meeting dates** as presented **MADE:** S. Hitchcock Missel **SECONDED:** M. Delmonico **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, A. Schwarz **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

B. Process for the Election of 2024 -2026 APLB officers

Positions for election in January are Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. If any Board member would like to either self-nominate, nominate another member, or continue in their current position, they must send an email to Board Clerk Joanne Galli no later than January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting of December 12, 2023 at 7:47 P.M. to the next scheduled meeting of **Tuesday, January 9, 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, N. Wise, S. Mariani, M. Cameron, M. Delmonico, A. Derouaux-Welch, S. Hitchcock Missel, A. Schwarz **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Galli  
Recording Clerk