

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

**Acton Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

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-Chair), S. Mariani (Corresponding Secretary), N. Wise (Treasurer), A. Bundonis Jr. (via Zoom), M. Cameron, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola

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

Amanda introduced Rebecca Graebner, the library’s new Assistant Director/Children’s Librarian

**In attendance (Friends):** N. Prescott (Co-President)

**Vice-Chair Alan Schwarz requested an agenda addition - Executive Session. The Board consented to the Session before Adjournment.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** to approve the **Board Meeting Minutes** of Tuesday, February 11, 2025 as amended to show correct year of 2025 **MADE**: A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED**: M. Cameron **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, S. Mariani, N. Wise, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Library Renewal Committee Meeting Minutes** of Friday, February 14, 2025 as presented **MADE**: M.A. Iadarola **SECONDED**: M. Cameron **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, S. Mariani, N. Wise, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Library Renewal Committee Meeting Minutes** of Friday, February 21, 2025 as presented **MADE**: M.A. Iadarola **SECONDED**: A. Derouaux-Welch **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, S. Mariani, N. Wise, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the **Library Renewal Committee Meeting Minutes** of Wednesday, March 12, 2025 amended to show spelling correction of 4. b. “vey” to “vet” **MADE**: A. Derouaux-Welch **SECONDED**: M.A. Iadarola **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, S. Mariani, N. Wise, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

**3. Public Comment –** None

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

Amanda is concerned about having insufficient funds to pay Eversource, as only 10% of the budget remains with three months to go. Additionally, with Frontier's acquisition, she worries about potential price increases for the phone land lines that are needed for safety purposes. Amanda will need to find additional funds elsewhere in the budget to cover these costs. In an effort to alleviate concerns about potential federal cuts affecting the library, Amanda stated that the library is funded 97% by the town.

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

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

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

Through CT Card, Amanda purchased long-sleeve tees for the staff and some items for the summer reading program, which is partially subsidized by the Friends. Nancy added that the quilt funded by the Michele Van Epps Fund is displayed in the gallery for the month of April. The fund currently has $1,255, with a final cost of $500 plus hanging fees. The remaining balance will be allocated to the renewal fund in Michele Van Epps' name.

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

**6. ACCEPTANCE OF STATISTICS REPORT**

Circulation is down in non-fiction, while children's books, adult fiction, and mysteries are seeing an increase. Amanda will adjust her purchasing to better reflect patron interests.

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

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

**7. CORRESPONDENCES –** None.

**8. BOARD CHAIR’S REPORT**

The Board, along with Amanda and Victoria, have been making renewal presentations. Both the AAUW and the Ambulance Association have pledged $1,000 each.

**9. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECT**

The comedy show fundraiser (appropriate for adults only) has been scheduled for August 28, 2025 at 7 P.M. There are three ticket levels: $50 General Admission, $500 VIP tickets (only 16 tickets available) and $1,000 VIP tickets (only 8 tickets available). The VIP tickets include a cocktail party starting at 6 P.M. Tickets will be available soon on the Kate’s website.

**Library Foundation -** Final paperwork is being reviewed by the attorney. After narrowing the list from 51 candidates to 9, the new Foundation members have been selected and have held their first meeting. The following individuals have been appointed:

**Michael Rafferty – Chair**

**Charlie Farrow – Vice Chair**

**Dan Welch – Secretary**

**Mark Hand – Treasurer**

**Andrea Berman**

**Sascha Paladino**

**Toral Maher**

**Noelle Marchaj**

**Krista May**

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The new Assistant Director and Children’s Librarian, Rebecca Graebner, started on April 1st. Amanda and Nathan both expressed gratitude to the staff for stepping up to provide programs and maintain continuity of services during the time the position was unfilled. On social media, the weekly "Meet the Staff" feature has been popular. Twenty-five new library cards were issued, along with thirty-six renewals. Additionally, lawn games are now available for checkout again.

In March, 28 adult programs were offered, with a total of 371 attendees. Our most popular events included the Kerry Boys Irish Music performance (60 attendees), Sheryl Faye as Ruth Bader Ginsburg (50 attendees), the Sourdough Demonstration (22 attendees signed up within first four minutes of registration), and Square Dancing (20 attendees). This month’s movie, *Wicked*, had 18 attendees. Due to the popularity of the Sourdough demonstration, another session will be scheduled.

**Coming up**:

* **April 10 - Green Old Saybrook**
* **April 24 - Protecting our Pollinators**
* **May 8 - Janet Barrett, author of *Comanche* and *His Captain***
* **May 10 – Kim Larkin will present a Downton Abbey-themed Tea & Chocolate Pairing**
* **May 13 – Florence Griswold Outreach will return to make altered books**

**The Children's Library** hosted 18 in-person events, with 807 attendees participating in various activities. Our leprechaun trap was a big hit again, doubling last year’s registrations. Grub Club remains a fun and popular activity, along with the passive activities enjoyed by many.

**YA** – Twenty ducks were decorated by patrons and now on display. Judging will commence soon. The Bards of Gungywamp, made up of talented storytellers and musicians, were engaging and entertaining. Brian is working with Poet Laureate Sandy Yannone to establish teen “Write-In” sessions. **Coming up in April for YA**: **The Sweet Polly Duo on April 16th.**

**10. FRIEND’S REPORT**

Nancy Prescott noted that $3,000 dollars was raised at the March Book/Bake Sale. The next sale is scheduled for June 26-28. The annual meeting is scheduled for May 21st at 5:30, and Sheryl Faye will join us to perform a one-person theatrical portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt.

**11. OLD BUSINESS –** None.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

The Board has agreed to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. Susan and Michael are looking for ideas for the float, particularly regarding fundraising, and encourage suggestions.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:45 the Board entered Executive Session to discuss a matter regarding the Renewal Committee. At 8:02 the Board returned to Open Session. No actions were taken following the executive session.

**13.** **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting of **Tuesday, April 8, 2025** at **8:03 P.M.** to the next scheduled meeting of **Tuesday, May 13, 2025** at **6:30 P.M.** in the Friends Conference Room as presented **MADE**: N. Wise **SECONDED**: M.A. Iadarola **VOTING IN FAVOR:** N. Walsh, A. Schwarz, S. Mariani, N. Wise, A. Bundonis Jr., M. Cameron, A. Derouaux-Welch, M.A. Iadarola **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINING:** None **MOTION APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Galli

Recording Clerk