

WATERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
28 North Main Street – SAL Meeting Room
Monday, October 21, 2024, at 5:00 PM

Present: Anna Black, Michelle Baker, Margaret Moreland, Erin Mooney, Rachel Muse

Anna called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

Margaret moved to approve the agenda. Anna seconded. All in favor.

Anna moved to approve the September 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Michelle seconded. All in favor.

Public Comment: none.

Town Manager's Report: none

Library Commission Treasurer's Report

- Michelle reported continuing good returns on investments.
- She will be contacting the town about proceeds from the Joslin and Howland trusts. Those proceeds will be subtracted from the amount payable to the town by the end of the year.

Library Director's Report

- There were 142 new library card sign-ups in the last quarter – a record for at least the last few years. September was Library Card Sign-Up Month and the campaign included social media posts, a poster, limited edition sign up stickers
- The Children's Garden closed for the season with a gorgeous garden party hosted by Sandra and our garden volunteers hosted. Over fifty people attended!
- Now that the summer rush is over, the Library is taking advantage of the quieter time to do a lot of data cleanup - important for statistics and accounting purposes. Beginning preparations for end of year reporting.
- Thanks to the Friends of the Library, the Library has been able to purchase four new Chromebooks for patron use and internal technology programing.
- Rachel was reelected president of The Catamount Library Network at its annual meeting in Springfield last week. Kellogg-Hubbard Library will soon be "live" in the system. In the coming year, Rachel will work to include some of Vermont's smaller libraries.
- Rachel continues to work with the Vermont Library Association's Government Relations and Advocacy Committee on raising awareness of the needs of libraries and seeking support and legislative changes.
- Waterbury Recreation has arranged for a path to be carved into the slope between the Library Garden and the Rec Fields. The next step is to obtain appropriate signage and add natural play or musical equipment.
- Mr. Chris presented a well-attended outdoor family concert in the gardens on Sept 5th.

- Sandra, the youth librarian, has added a Busy Bees Playgroup for our smallest patrons ages 0-24 months and their caregivers.
- A Harvest Feast was held to celebrate the first year of the Children’s Garden. Over 50 people attended, enjoying treats all sourced from the Children’s Garden.
- Elementary school aged kids have been attending a Watercolor class and continue to enjoy the monthly Lego club. The middle school aged kids’ Cooking Club remains popular.
- September saw a total of 440 attendees at the 37 adult programs, including “Plain Language” and “The 4 Pillars of the New Retirement.” Regular programs remain popular, including the watercolor class, the arthritis class, Mahjong, silent reading, and Bridge – with an average of 12-24 attendees per class.
- 28 people attended the Waterbury Senior Center Pop-up Library on September 4th, continuing the collaboration with the Waterbury Historical Society to bring a mystery artifact (Fred Abare’s handmade dominos) to share and discuss. The Library a table with related books/items available for check out, flyers & information for upcoming library programs, a station set up for Library Card Sign-Up Month, free books, puzzles, bookmarks, Banned Books Week stickers/buttons and our monthly library calendar.
- There were Silent Library Card Sign-Ups at the Silent Reading Party on September 18th at Stone’s Throw restaurant.
- In honor of National Voter Registration Day on September 17th, the Library collected materials from the Secretary of State and Town Office and set up a Voter Registration Station. A small version of the station remains up with a QR code for folks to be able to self-register.
- October 22-28th was Banned Books Week and the Library did a book display including 2023 book censorship data and statistics compiled by ALA.

Old Business – Welcomed Erin Mooney as our newest Commissioner.

New Business

- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Rachel, Anna, Erin, and Maureen (from Friends) met to set up the procedure for examining the progress made on goals set in the strategic plan and next steps to be taken. Rachel will prepare a draft for review and discussion by the Committee. It was noted that some subjects were not even on the radar when the strategic plan was drafted. Therefore, a new strategic plan may be needed in 2026.
- Anna distributed the form she created for the 2024 Library Director Evaluation to all Commissioners. It should be returned to her promptly.

Margaret moved to adjourn the meeting. Erin seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM

Next meeting: Monday, November 11, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

APPROVED: