

WATERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
FINAL MINUTES – as amended
28 North Main Street – SAL Room
Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM

Present: Anna Black, Michelle Baker, Erin Mooney, Margaret Moreland, Kit Walker, Rachel Muse, Tom Leitz, Sandra Schweikert

Anna called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

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

Anna moved to approve the December 10, 2024, meeting minutes. Michelle seconded. All in favor.

Public Comment:

- Rachel introduced Sandra Schweikert, the Youth Librarian, to the Board.
- Sandra outlined the scope of her position. Minecraft, a new technology program, and a crochet club for all ages are among the recently introduced programs. The Children’s Garden, introduced last summer and a great success, has a volunteer master gardener for next summer and plans are already being made to increase the size. A great surprise at the end of the year was a \$5,000 donation for the Children’s Garden from a Waterbury second-home owner who spends a lot of time in the library and garden with her grandson. The LEGO club, Teen Art, and other regular programs restarted after a holiday break and are well attended. Removing a few computer stations made room for more teen and youth activities. Busy Bees (0-24 months) and Storytimes continue to have the greatest number of participants! Future programs, in collaboration with other groups (the Rec Department, Brookside School, and Revitalizing Waterbury) include Touch-a-Truck and Winterfest sleigh-riding.
- In answer to questions from Commissioners, Sandra said that, while there has been a small drop in book circulation, picture books are still the most-circulated and some YA books have been relocated to the 1st floor where they are more accessible.

Executive Session

- Margaret moved that premature general public knowledge of the Board’s consideration of the VLRB Unit Petition, specifically, would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Erin seconded. All in favor.
- Tom and Rachel were asked to attend for the purpose of sharing information about the VLRB Unit Petition.
- Margaret moved that the Board go into executive session to consider the VLRB Unit Petition. Anna seconded. All in favor
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- Open meeting continued.

Library Commission Treasurer’s Report

- Michelle reported that the annual management fee of \$175 has been reimbursed.
- \$36,080.33 has been paid to the Town of Waterbury as agreed.
- The average annual investment gain for 2024 was 17%.

Library Director's Report

- Foot traffic for 2024 is higher than that for 2023, likely because of very successful adult programming and the popularity of the library as an after-school hangout.
- With DeAnna in charge of volunteer coordination, volunteer engagement has continued to grow.
- The 2025 Budget includes \$500 for Commissioner training which could be used to attend the Vermont Library Association annual meeting in May.
- Some of the 1st floor computers have been removed to make room for more teen and youth activities.
- Rachel and Anna have submitted the library's annual report to the Vermont Department of Libraries.
- The entire library staff enjoyed a holiday lunch on December 19.
- Rachel attended Have Your Say Day meetings in both Duxbury and Waterbury
- Rachel is actively involved in the Vermont Library Association's Government Advocacy Committee and will be meeting with the legislators in February.
- Winter Solstice Meditation and Art Yoga were popular programs in December. Duplicate Bridge, D&D & TTRPG, Board Games, Chair Yoga, Fiber Arts Friday, Hand-stitching, and Writers' Wertfrei are faithfully attended.
- Outreach: Deanna and Sandra paid another outreach visit to the Waterbury Family Shelter to share information about the library. Twenty-three attendees at Deanna's December Pop-up Library at the Senior Center received flyers, upcoming program information, bookmarks, and the library calendar. Some free items were also available. The Waterbury Historical Society's mystery artifact was a hundred-year-old lard pail, sparking a discussion of pie-making ingredients!

Old Business

- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Some of the 2025 goals – regarding unhoused patrons and children's programs - have already been implemented.

New Business – none.

Kit moved to adjourn. Erin seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM

Next meeting: Monday, February 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM, in the SAL room.

APPROVED: