

WATERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
28 North Main Street – SAL Room
Monday, March 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM

Present: Michelle Baker, Erin Mooney, Margaret Moreland, Tom Leitz, Rachel Muse, Judi Byron
Absent: Anna Black, Kit Walker

Erin called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM. Erin chaired the meeting due Anna's absence.

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

Michelle moved to approve meeting minutes for February 10, 2025. Erin seconded. All in favor.

Public Comment: None

Adult Programming Librarian's Report

- Rachel introduced Judi Byron to the Board.
- Judi began by talking about some of the recent popular programs. The Celtic music program last Friday evening was sponsored by the Friends of the Waterbury Public Library. CReW and Ellen Gurwitz of De-Clutter Me! presented a program on how to declutter and keep clean spaces, timely in light of recent flooding. Waterbury's town planner, Neal Leitner, and zoning administrator, Mike Bishop, are presenting a series of programs, Building Better Waterbury: Homeowner Solutions for Housing Growth and Resilient Living, funded by Vermont Community Foundation, covering strategies and best practices to manage zoning and permitting requirements, funding options, construction processes, and property management. Later this month, Bill Nowlan will share his adventures and misadventures while he was circling the globe with Semester at Sea, a unique college campus.
- Judi stressed that many great ideas for programming come from the public, and many are presented by volunteers with no impact on the limited programming budget.
- Rachel pointed out that Judi books and hosts programming and handles all the publicity - online, on the radio, and more. All of this during the limited ten hours for the position.

Municipal Manager's Report

- Tom reported that the Town is just weeks away from beginning contract negotiations with AFSCME, the union that will be representing a portion of Waterbury's employees. He has a great deal of experience in this area and is reviewing comparable contracts. After a contract is agreed upon, it will have to be certified by the Select Board. It is expected to be a smooth procedure.
- In answer to a question about the process by which employees initially joined the union, Tom explained that, under a new law, signing the card expressing interest is now considered an affirmative vote.

Library Commission Treasurer's Report

- Investments continued to grow during the past month, but fluctuations are expected.
- Michelle will be analyzing our mutual fund investments with a view toward retaining the ones that have been more stable. She will also contact Morgan Stanley about rebalancing investments.

Library Director's Report

- Kanopy usage had a big increase in the past month and, for the first time, the Library hit its budget limit! A small additional amount was added to cover the last few days of February. Great to see this service gaining popularity.
- The Library now has over 750 Instagram followers, largely thanks to DeAnna and Anathé's keeping it active and engaging.
- A major project will be the creation of a designated Teen Space the young children's area is now located. The next step is to work out some details around networking or changing up our copier. YA books will be moved to the new Teen Space
- Rachel and Sandy met with a carpenter to talk about changes for the Children's Garden. It will be moved to the plot closest to the Library, a better option but one that will require a great deal of work. New raised beds will be constructed, but soil is likely to be the greatest expense (unless soil is moved from the old beds).
- As usual, the Library is hosting AARP volunteers who are assisting community members with preparing their tax returns.
- Rachel attended a webinar on Sustainable Libraries, a subject that will likely play big role in next phases of strategic planning. Sustainable Libraries are environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible.
- Rachel, Deanna, and Anathé attended UVM President Emeritus Thomas Sullivan's lecture, First Amendment Speech Challenges for Libraries and Society Under the New Administration in Washington: Why Books and Expressive Thought Can't Be Banned (sponsored by the Vermont Library Association), at Fletcher Free Library.
- The Winterfest sledding party was attended by 140 folks who went sleigh riding down the hill in the very chilly temps, warmed up with hot cocoa and a bagel in the SAL, and crafted a unique pair of mittens.
- Teens discussed *Sir Callie and the Champions of Helston* in book club this month. They explored with clay and sticks in Teen Makerspace. The Teen Advisory Board met to discuss the new Teen Space and plan an after-hours teen night in April. Middle Schoolers played Minecraft and other Switch games in the SAL on Tuesdays, they made wonderfully bad collages in Bad Art Club, and they crocheted on Thursdays.
- Many kids walk or ride the bus to the library after school and the librarians are trying to corral their energy with additional program offerings beyond the computers.
- The Outreach Librarian reported that 50 Home Delivery flyers went home with Meals on Wheels deliveries. Twenty-two people attended the Waterbury Senior Center Pop-up Library on February 5th and heard about the manufacture of clothespins in Waterbury. DeAnna also visited Waterbury Shelter on February 10th to provide updated copies of our February programs, calendars, and some COVID tests.

Old Business – Strategic Planning goals continue to be addressed; the new Department of Libraries Draft Collection Development Policy and our Materials Selection Policy will be reviewed in April.

New Business - New Municipal Code of Ethics Policy

- Tom explained that the Code will apply to all decision-making bodies of the town – including the Board of Library Commissioners.
- Procedures will be adopted to comply.
- Ethics training will be provided.
- Most issues in the past have been concerned with the Open Meeting Law.

Margaret moved to adjourn the meeting. Michelle seconded. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Next meeting: Monday, April 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM, in the SAL room.

APPROVED: