

Jonathan Trumbull Library  
October 25, 2022  
Regular Meeting – Board of Trustees  
Community Multipurpose Room

Present: Janice Knudsen, Bill Goba; Guthrie Dinda; Suzanne Nintean; Christine Hadyka; Cathe McCall; Berkeley Nowosad; Michelle Kersey; Eileen Weinstein; Maggie Gaier and Matt Earls

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by the Chair, Cathe McCall.

Public Comment:

- See attached for members of the public who presented public comments.
- At the close of public comments, Matt Earls reviewed the timeline of events: a formal complaint was submitted to the Library Director. There was an intimidating email received by Matt against the Director and staff. Out of fear of potential violence, the display was temporarily removed. After reviewing case law and Connecticut Library Association guidelines, the display was not found to be obscene, offensive, hateful or bad speech and therefore meets the test to remain on display in the library at this time.

Minutes:

- **Motion (Michelle Kersey/Janice Knudsen) to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022. Motion carried with one abstention (Weinstein).**

Librarian Reports:

Director's Report: Matt Earls reported.

- Controversy surrounding the removal of the pride display in the teen area: correspondence: (10) emails with actual names in favor of the pride flag display making excellent points. (1) anonymous person who doesn't believe transgender has any business in the library.
- Town Charter: Current articles state: 7.3.9 Library Board of Trustees: The Library Board of Trustees shall consist of nine (9) members, each of whom shall be elected for a term of six (6) years, and shall exercise the powers and duties prescribed in Chapter 190 of the Connecticut General Statutes. 8.2.10 The Library Director shall exercise the powers and duties prescribed in Chapter 190 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Three (3) members of the Library Board of Trustees shall be elected at each Biannual Town Election.
- Library Program Room (Community Multipurpose Room) Policy: Current bylaws state: The library program room is available for Lebanon nonprofit organizations and Lebanon community groups engaged in educational, cultural, intellectual or civic activities. It may be booked, through contacting library staff, by such members over eighteen (18) years of age for use during regular library hours, at the discretion of the Library Director. All meetings must be free and open to the public. Library activities and Friends of the Library activities supersede all other uses. No regular meetings of such nonprofits and community groups may be booked more than once in each month.

- Additional comments: For times when the library is closed, again we would like to limit the number of uses to once a month. If the library is closed, I'm not sure it is necessary that meetings be free and open to the public. Staff comment: when we make a community room schedule/calendar, we need to share it with Danny & Laura so they know when events are happening and can work around it for cleaning.
- Policy development referred to the By-laws Sub-Committee who will present a draft policy for review at the November 22, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.
- Adult Programs: Program attendance has been growing since we opened. In September we had over 100 attendees at various events, not including the book sale. This month we will have over 200 adult participants in yoga, tai chi, and various lectures. In addition, the room is being used for town meetings and other community organizations.
- Board Meeting Dates for 2023: To be reviewed at the November 22, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.
- State Report: Matt has been tabulating statistics for the state report which is now complete.
- Friends of the Library: No meeting held.
- Grants: Hugh Trumbull Adams grant application due November 30, 2022.
- Programs and Publicity: Claire continues to produce excellent work and we are now physically mailing a small number of brochures each month.
- Facilities: We had an entrapment in the Elevator with three kids trapped for over half an hour. We called the fire department immediately. They had to go up to the high school to get the emergency key for the elevator. Dean Hunniford from Public Works was able to open the elevator with that key. We now own an elevator key and keep it with our other keys. We are giving one to the fire department.
- Personnel: Donna wanted to pass along that a patron Victoria Silberstein had come in with her daughter and grandchildren a few weeks ago. They had lost their cat and mom was looking for death of pet books for children. She went downstairs and was so appreciative of Shomriel's help. Even after leaving Shomriel called them when finding others. She wanted me to let Matt know that she really did go above and beyond. It is always nice to hear. LLbean fleeces - \$40 plus logo application and logo set up.
  - **Motion (Michelle Kersey/Eileen Weinstein) made to authorize up to \$500 for purchase of LL Bean fleeces for staff. Motion carried with none opposed.**
- Building Committee: Cupola is installed. Still waiting for status of automatic doors for downstairs.
- Circulation: 6,048 total circulations for September 2022, which is the highest month since 2011.

Youth Services Librarian Report: Maggie Gaier reported.

- Circulation stat to highlight: In August, 660 picture books circulated (even though we were closed until August 20th). In September, 1,040 picture books circulated.
- Read, Rock and Rhyme continues to thrive, thanks in large part to our resident teen volunteer, Caleb. We're discussing revamping the existing program in order to support 50+ weekly people.
- Our other teen volunteers are starting to return amidst their soccer season and drama productions and gymnastics.
- In addition to our teens, we have the Junior Volunteer Squad, a group of homeschooling pre-teens and parents who have assembled on Wednesdays to help sort and tidy puppets and kits to prepare them for circulation after life in storage

- These twelve people are hard workers and fabulous community members; the moms have taken puppets home to wash and mend, the kids create artwork to decorate our space, they have inventoried puppets and kits, and next week they're helping prep for Halloween and autumn take-and-makes. They will hopefully feed into the teen volunteer team as they grow
- Great turn out and huge gratitude to our volunteer fire department and first responders– two great fire truck and safety events for fire prevention week!
- Community Services Committee meeting: Maggie reported on my teen mental health first aid training; looking forward to planning for a mental health awareness month event with school and town social workers, superintendent of schools, LCCW, local clergy, senior center, other local partnerships.
- Halloween on the Green 2022 should be a smash– we've got many more books to give away as compared to last year when we ran out of 100 books in under an hour. If anyone would like to come and help hand out candy and dress up, we'd love to have you.
- Join us for Marcel the Turtle's party to celebrate adopting her Thanksgiving 2021. Tuesday 11/22 4-5pm
- Other upcoming projects for the winter include lots of Bibliomation reports, weeding, and reflecting with our library community about what spring programs they'd like to see.

#### Sub-committees/Special Committees:

- Budget (Goba, Dinda, Nowosad, Hadyka): Budget report tabled until November 22, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.
- Personnel (Knudsen, Dinda, Weinstein, Kersey): Director's performance evaluation to be reviewed during Executive Session.
- Bylaws (Open, Nintean, Knudsen, Weinstein): Draft policy to be presented for review at November 22, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.
- Building Committee (Nowosad, McCall, Earls): no report.

#### On-going Reporting

- Friends of the Library: no report.

#### Unfinished Business

#### New Business

- Connecticut Council of Municipalities: Training regarding Constitutional and Free Speech Issues in Municipalities/Battleground Libraries will be offered via zoom on December 7, 2022 for members of the Library Board of Trustees. Board members are asked to let Cathe McCall know if interested in attending.
- Building and Staff Safety: Recent health emergency response reviewed. Revisions to the Library's building and staff safety procedures will be made, staff will be educated, and emergency contacts updated and made available in response to this event.

Executive Session:

- **Motion (Berkeley Nowosad/Michelle Kersey) to enter into Executive Session at 8:15 pm. Motion carried with none opposed.**
    - Annual performance evaluation of Library Direction reviewed, discussion and approved.
    - To be reviewed with Director, Personnel Sub-committee members and Board members on November 16, 2022 at 6 pm.
- Motion (Berkely Nowosad/Michelle Kersey) to end Executive Session at 9:00 pm. Motion carried with none opposed.**

Adjournment: **Motion (Michelle Kersey/Guthrie Dinda made to adjourn at 9:01 pm. Motion carried with none opposed.**

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

Members of the Public Who Spoke During the Public Comment:

Brian Saucier, 586 Jerusalem Road, Windham, CT  
Caleb Hadyka, 624 Waterman Road, Lebanon, CT  
Camryn Kessler, 73 Inky Stree, Hartford, CT  
Karey Ziel, 109 Clarke Road, Lebanon, CT  
Phil Zeil, 109 Clarke Road, Lebanon, CT  
Brittany West, 1305 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, CT  
Shannon Bisese, 411 Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, CT  
Julie Valvo, 493 Clubhouse Road, Lebanon, CT  
Linda Wallace, 29 Reservoir Road, Lebanon, CT  
Lori Guillard, 31 North Road, Windham, CT  
Tessa Stuart, 65 Townhouse Road, Lisbon, CT  
Shomriel Sherman, 525 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT  
Shelley Wurst, 21 Spusta Road, Stafford Springs, CT  
Jacob Wurst, 21 Spusta Road, Stafford Springs, CT  
Gage Wurst, 21 Spusta Road, Stafford Springs, CT  
Teresa Bieledda, 490B Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT  
Barbara Comstock-King, 277 Chapell Road, Lebanon, CT  
Tammy Raymond, 31 Lawrence Road, Lebanon, CT  
Rachael Archer, 340 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, CT  
Kristin Raymond, 186 Bogg Lane, Lebanon, CT  
Carolyn Fisher, 1012 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, CT  
Denise Terry, 54 Hamilton Drive, Manchester, CT  
Alia Nora, 86 Kingsley, Lebanon, CT  
Maura Arisman, 41 First Street, Lebanon, CT  
Kevin Cwikla, 419 Levita Road, Lebanon, CT  
Sheree Swenson, 53 Leonard Bridge Road, Lebanon, CT  
Melissa Hayes, 1012 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, CT  
Erin Burns, 295 Lake Road, Andover, CT