

Jonathan Trumbull Library
February 28, 2023
Regular Meeting
Library Board of Trustees
Zoom
REVISED

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by the Chair, Cathe McCall.

Public Comment:

Minutes:

- Motion (Janice Knudsen/Michelle Kersey) to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 special meeting with two corrections as noted. Motion carried with none opposed.

Librarian Reports:

Director's Report: Matt Earls reported.

- Matt extended his thanks for his experience during the past (5) years as Library Director. Matt has accepted a position with another library and his last day will be March 16, 2023.
- Adult programs include Yoga and Tai Chi which are thriving with regular attendance, the Thursday Magic and Chess clubs are also thriving. We have musicians from the band "Four Strings and a Smile" practicing in the MTA room as well because of the crossover of parents and the Tai Chi group. Book discussion group, mending circle, Arnie Pritchard and Richard Badowski also on going.
- Teen programs include Warhammer, 3D printing and Poetry.
- Friends of the Library has decided to not offer the Equinox and the Arts Show. The new membership coordinator suggested that the Friends determine if they want to raise money or recruit new volunteers. The group overwhelmingly chose to look to increase membership.
- Matt attended the Entertainment Showcase in West Harford which was productive. Musicians, magicians and other entertainers were found at this event.
- We are applying for a \$2000 Summer Reading Grant with a focus on the pollinator garden.
- There is a new monthly brochure design for Library programs.
- Circulation for January was 5492, indicating there are many materials out in the community.
- Maggie has applied to attend the New England Leadership Seminar that Matt attended in 2018 and found to be very valuable. A request for financial support will be forthcoming.
- Also recommended that Maggie attend the Connecticut Library Association meeting for two days and staff (Claire and Shomriel) attend for a day each. A request for financial support will be forthcoming.

Youth Services Librarian Report: Maggie Gaier reported.

- The flow of programming and circulation are both full and lively and we have many regulars who spread the word to friends in surrounding towns that JTL is the place to be.
- We hear parents say daily that “Lebanon has the best library” and that they feel so welcome and supported and valued as community members. We are carving quite a niche for ourselves.
- Lebanon Elementary School field trips are scheduled for March 2023 with over 70 preschoolers visiting JTL on March 24, 2023.
- The first graders at LES raised money for Marcel and her basking area will be renovated with the funds.
- Weekly 3-5 year old storytime added to calendar as Read, Rock and Rhyme kids are aging out of that program.
- Read, Rock and Rhyme continues to thrive with regular weekly attendance of 25-55 attendees.
- Homeschool Fridays also draw a regular crowd of 25-45 attendees.
- Monthly hike outreach series will draw to a close in March 2023 after 13 fabulous hikes! Maggie intends to have another Friday outreach program following the conclusion of the search for a new Director.
- Friends of the Library donated funds to purchase new in-house toys.
- There is a Meet Up group using our space on Wednesday nights and folks come from all over the state to participate. The group also helps clean up at 5:30 so the Library can effectively close at 6 pm.
- Maggie has also indicated a request for financial support to attend the NELLs conference with be forthcoming.
- Looking ahead to Matt’s transition, Maggie’s focus will be on hiring, managing operations Tuesday- Saturday and increased delegation to her effective downstairs team.

Sub-committees/Special Committees:

- Budget (Goba, Dinda, Nowosad, Hadyka): Budget report tabled until April 2023 Board of Trustees meeting.
- Personnel (Knudsen, Dinda, Weinstein, Kersey):
 - Search Committee to be established for Library Director position.
 - Eileen Weinstein, Michelle Kersey, Janice Knudsen, Christine Hadyka and Cathe McCall volunteered with Maggie Gaier participating as well.
 - First meeting to be held Friday, March 3, 2023 at 4 pm in the Library’s Community Room.
 - Further meeting dates and additional membership to be reviewed at this first meeting.
- Bylaws (Open, Nintean, Knudsen, Weinstein):
 - Draft of “Community Room Use Policy and Agreement” presented for review.
 - Motion (Michelle Kersey/Eileen Weinstein) made to revise bylaws to include “Community Room Use Policy and Agreement” with changes as noted. Motion carried with none opposed.

- Cathe McCall to schedule annual bylaw review with Committee members.
- Building Committee (Nowosad, McCall, Earls):
 - Tom Linden Landscape Architects are creating a landscaping plan which we will submit to the Village District Design Review for approval and then submit to the Planning and Zoning for their approval.

On-going Reporting

- Friends of the Library: no report.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn at 8:21 pm. Motion carried with none opposed.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

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