

Waterford Public Library
Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting of 12 July 2022

1. President Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees present: E. Boyce, N. Dragoli, C. Giordano, J. Lehet, J. Merrill, B. Pisacich, M. Wagner, G. Ritter (virtual). Also present C. Johnson, Library Director. Not present: L. Couture, J. Mullen, A. Roberge.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda including Minutes 5/10/22, Treasurer's report, and Financial report. All in Favor.

3. President's Report

Aaron Rosenberg spoke to the Board about the dying downtowns, malls, newspapers, houses of worship, lack of volunteers for boards and service organizations. According to the opinion of Simon Jenkins, of The Guardian (Manchester, UK newspaper): Libraries are dying.

However, Waterford Public Library is meeting the challenges of the 21st Century. With our e-newsletter as well as Library Notes in The Day, the information is disseminated about the myriad adult and children's programs provided each and every month. This year they included: Great Decisions funded by grant monies, Virtual Author programs, movies, al fresco concerts, and much more.

4. Committee Reports

- Development and Fund Raising: M. Wagner

Income for FY22 was derived from the Fund Drive, AmazonSmile, Charter Oak Match, and Bequests and memorial donations. The FY22 Fund Drive totaled more and the Bequests less than the prior year. Donors for FY22 numbered 277 individuals, 4 businesses, 7 meeting room users, for a total of 288.

- Nominating: C. Giordano

The Officers are Aaron Rosenberg, President, Connie Giordano, Vice President, Bernie Pisacich, Treasurer, and Joy Merrill, Secretary.

- Finance: B. Pisacich

Moved out of Bond Funds last year. The endowment is at \$3M but was at a high of \$3.6M. Noted that with a 20% market loss it takes 25% to recapture that loss, for 30% it takes 42%, and for 40% it would take 67%. Therefore, it is imperative to maintain a strong equity position.

During the past year, Future Benefits was sold to One Digital. Our CPA has also sold to a local firm which will cause a moderate increase in the cost for our FY22 audit to be filed in November.

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The Budget schedule for FY24 includes the following meetings to recommend the Endowment Allocation.

Tues	11 Oct	4 p.m.	Finance Committee
Tues	1 Nov.	tbd	Executive Committee
Tues	8 Nov.	6 p.m.	Board of Trustees

The Executive Committee is comprised of the President, Treasurer, and a Trustee at Large, currently Grant Ritter. A discussion followed on the interpretation of the Bylaws on the Trustee at Large being one individual every time. Jen Mullen will be asked to review.

5. Director's Annual Report: C. Johnson

- Note, all Board of Trustee members are required to be sworn in by the Town Clerk. Since it appears that none of us have done so, a request to do so at the September meeting will be made.
- Outdoor Adirondack chairs, provided by funds of the Barcello family, have been installed and will receive plaques at a small ceremony. They are already being used.
- ARPA grant monies enabled the purchase of two solar charging benches using the free Wi-Fi at both front and back doors.
- The CIPA compliance certification enabled us to purchase 6 Wi-Fi Hot Spots that can be borrowed for up to 2 weeks at a time by anyone with a library card.
- Electrical work is completed on the Mezzanine and carpet quotes still being gathered and compared.
- Our contact at Dominion Energy retired and our request for funds for Al Fresco concerts is mired down. Should monies be received they will be applied to next year.
- A Smith College (virtual) intern, paid by Smith College, has this summer provided much assistance in marketing including posters.
- The library was awarded a number of programming grants this past year and Senator Blumenthal made a visit to the library in April to acknowledge this achievement.
- Diane Beaulieu has filled in both the Children's Department and with Graphics.
- The personnel changes over the past year were a challenge but the quality of service remained the same.
- The new Children's Librarian, Jenna Bivona, will start on 15 August.

6. Old Business

- Board Dinner is scheduled for 18 August at Tony D's in New London. People will gather at 5:30 p.m.
- Currently 105 of 169 libraries in Connecticut are Fine Free. Discussion on whether to reinstate fines resulted in the following motion. Motion made by M. Wagner, seconded by J. Merrill, WPL to remain Fine Free except for Red Hots, Museum Passports, and Hot Spots. The motion passed with a vote of 1 abstention, 1 negative, and 7 in favor.

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7. New Business

- Holiday Schedule will remain the same for FY23.
- The Town is investigating additional security cameras on Town buildings. Additional exterior cameras may be installed. If cameras are added on the interior, guidelines on privacy would preclude any cameras except where monies are exchanged and one in the Children's Room.
- Waterford Public Library will celebrate its 100th anniversary in May 2023. A Library Fair has been suggested as a celebration.
- Discussion on the value of checkouts being added to the due date receipt resulted in it being tabled for further discussion at the next Board meeting in September.
- The request to use WPL parking on 24 September for a Breast Cancer Walk resulted in referring the requestor to Waterford Historical Society and using Jordan Green.

A motion was made at 7:30 to adjourn by M. Wagner and seconded by C. Giordano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted 14 July 2022

Joy S. Merrill, Secretary