



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Library Commission

Meeting Minutes

Bill Library
718 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Gales Ferry Library
18 Hurlbutt Road
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06335

Chair
John Bolduc

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 17, 2024

7:00 PM

Bill Library

Bill Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bolduc called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Bill Library.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Chair John Bolduc
Commissioner Ellin Grenger
Commissioner Brian Cronin
Commissioner Ralph Hightower
Commissioner Rolf Racich
Commissioner Peter Diette

Excused Commissioner Barbara Candler
Commissioner Rebecca Nash
Commissioner Elizabeth Rumery

In addition, the following were present:
Jennifer Smith - Library Director
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry - Town Council Liaison

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

None

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Welcome Mr. Diette

Mr. Bolduc welcomed Mr. Diette and asked him to share a little bit about himself. Mr. Diette is a Library Media Specialist in the Groton Public Schools. He is currently working on obtaining his Masters in Library and Information Studies at Louisiana State University. Mr. Diette also has two sons and is a long-time town resident.

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

None

VI. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hightower presented the May Treasurer's Report. Approximately 99% of the library budgeted expenses have been encumbered as FY2024 comes to a close. There was an error in the May report and \$2,070 of the receipts should be reflected in the May column rather than the April column. Mr. Hightower will submit a revised report.

2. Director's Report

Ms. Smith presented the June Director's Report.

Budget News:

- We received a grant from Traveling Toys in the amount of \$3,333.33 to start a toy/game collection! Stacey Burt is working on developing a list of toys and games to purchase. Patrons will be able to check out these items.
- We have also been notified that we will be receiving a grant from Ledyard Rotary! The amount is unknown, but we are thrilled to have Rotarian's support for our new Children's Wonderbook collection. Ledyard Lions and New London Kiwanis both gave \$500.00 to this new collection. Each Wonderbook costs \$60.00 on average. Adding these grants together should give us enough to start a new collection for both buildings.

Library News:

- Our annual staff meeting went very well. Everyone on staff made an effort to attend.
- Several staff members participated in a library promotional video that was published to our library social media accounts which follows Objective #2 increase library's social media presence in our strategic plan goal of increasing community awareness of library services.
- In preparation for summer, Stacey Burt and Jadzia Childs (Youth Services team) recorded and submitted a Summer Adventure Program promotional video to Ledyard schools. A letter also went out to caregivers encouraging families to read and use the library this summer! Stacey also attended the Ledyard Farmers Market on June 12 to promote the library and all our offerings. This meets our strategic plan goal of collaborating with town and regional organizations specifically with the schools to encourage and support literacy.
- The Summer Reading kick-off program is Saturday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m. Bill Library. Michele Urban will present Find Your Dinosaur Roar, a "dino-mite, prehistoric music adventure" that will have families roaring with delight! Adult Summer Reading also begins on June 15, so stop by either location to pick up your bingo card for a chance to win exciting prizes.
- Fifty people responded to the newspaper survey, which was a great sample size. 75% of patrons still enjoy reading the newspaper with The Day being the most popular. 75% of responders also indicated they are interested in free digital access to newspapers. The Library can offer a digital subscription to anyone with a Ledyard Library card through the State Library and we will move in that direction this next year for the New York Times and Hartford Courant among others. To summarize, we are never going to be able to please everyone. However, seeing that nearly 75% of our responders are open to digital newspaper access, we are going to move in that direction for some of our newspapers especially the New York Times. Here is the history of the NYT in the last few years -- we had been running over to Village Market for the NYT, but newsstand prices have continued to increase making it a very costly option. Then we switched to courier delivery for NYT, but that was unsuccessful as our courier was not reliable and we would often not receive the NYT at all. Right now, we receive the NYT by mail. By the time it arrives, it is often a week old which

seems pretty pointless as it is no longer even news at that point. We've called and have been told the delay in the NYT by mail is intentional and cannot be sped up. So, it seems that providing free digital access to our patrons is worth trying. There are several newspapers available for free with your Ledyard Library card. You can access them through our website Resources page <https://ledyardlibrary.org/resources/> We will still receive the following print copies next year: The Day in both buildings, Wall Street Journal (Bill Library) and USA Today (Gales Ferry Library).

Building News:

- Public Works is in the process of getting a quote on two new pillars for the Gales Ferry Library entrance. The goal is to replace both pillars soon to eliminate the animal infestation and rot. Stay tuned for more information.
- An electrical breaker was tripped in the basement of Gales Ferry two weeks ago. The cause is unknown, but it may have been because of the mini-fridge. A new refrigerator has been installed to replace the old one and is also on a different breaker.
- Two new slat wall display units will be added to the Bill Library in the next few weeks. This will allow us to do a better job displaying and drawing attention to our collection items on a consistent basis.
- A new board book shelving unit will also arrive and will be an excellent addition to the Bill Library. This unit will allow us to more than double the size of this current popular collection. To put this in perspective, last month Gales Ferry circulation statistics reported that our board books accounted for 7.6% of our total circulation for the month (adult fiction was 7.4%)!

3. Friends of the Ledyard Library Report

Mr. Bolduc reported that the half-price book sale ended on June 15 and netted around \$200.00 between the two buildings.

4. Investment Working Group

Mr. Bolduc reported that details for the Investment accounts budget proposal can be discussed during new business.

5. Consortium Working Group

The group had an abbreviated meeting on Friday, June 14. All the information gathered so far has been distributed amongst group members, and will convene again on Friday, June 28.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Library Commission meeting from May 20, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Brian Cronin

SECONDER: Rolf Racich

AYE 6 Bolduc Grenger Cronin Hightower Racich Diette

EXCUSED 3 Candler Nash Rumery

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to approve the FY2025 Library Commission Special Fund Budget.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Ellin Grenger

SECONDER: Peter Diette

AYE 6 Bolduc Grenger Cronin Hightower Racich Diette

EXCUSED 3 Candler Nash Rumery

2. Motion to approve the FY2025 Library Commission Investment Fund Budget - Gales Ferry Library.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Rolf Racich

SECONDER: Ralph Hightower

AYE 6 Bolduc Grenger Cronin Hightower Racich Diette

EXCUSED 3 Candler Nash Rumery

3. Motion to approve the FY2025 Library Commission Investment Fund Budget - Either Library.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Brian Cronin

SECONDER: Peter Diette

AYE 6 Bolduc Grenger Cronin Hightower Racich Diette

EXCUSED 3 Candler Nash Rumery

4. Motion to cancel the regularly scheduled Library Commission meeting on August 19, 2024 at the Gales Ferry Library.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Ralph Hightower

SECONDER: Rolf Racich

AYE 6 Bolduc Grenger Cronin Hightower Racich Diette

EXCUSED 3 Candler Nash Rumery

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bolduc moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Hightower.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

VOTE: 6-0 Approved and so declared

The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2024 at Bill Library.

Respectively Submitted,

John Bolduc
Library Commission Chair

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.