



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, November 18, 2024

7:00 PM

Bill Library

Bill Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bolduc called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Bill Library.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Chair John Bolduc
Commissioner Barbara Candler
Commissioner Ralph Hightower
Commissioner Rolf Racich
Commissioner Peter Diette
Chair Cynthia Wright

Excused Commissioner Ellin Grenger
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

None

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

None

VI. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

The Library Commission account had a \$100 donation from Naomi Rodriguez. Spent \$462.03 on books and media. There is a positive balance in the account.

Library Investment Account - Either Library: Spent \$245.00 on a program called Learn to Macramé.

Library Investment Account - Gales Ferry Library: no activity.

2. Director's Report

Ms. Smith presented the November Director's Report.

Budget News:

- Hoopla continues to be a very popular service and has been averaging around \$1,500 per month. This is paid for mainly by the Friends of the Library (volunteers who support the library through fundraising), but also supplemented by the Town book budget. If interest in e-materials continues at this rate, we will need to think about a budgetary solution for next year. Hoopla expenses most likely will keep going up.

Chair Bolduc asked if the number of books checked out through Hoopla, currently 4, could be reduced to 3 to help limit the costs? Ms. Smith recommended capping how much the library would spend per month on Hoopla rather than imposing on the number of checkouts allowed per user. This could help to reduce the monthly spending.

Library News:

- We are back to being fully staffed! Lyndsey Robinson started on November 12 as our new Assistant Librarian I - Adult Services. Thank you to library staff for covering and filling in gaps in our schedule while we were without a FT position.

- The Toy Library opened on October 30 and is off to a great start! We have circulated over 55 items total between the Gales Ferry Library and Bill Library in the past few weeks since unveiling this new collection. Toys can be loaned for a period of three weeks and can be renew once. Our website is updated with a page describing the new toy collection and listing all the items available to check out at both library locations. Details can be found here - <https://ledyardlibrary.org/children/toy-library/>

The library book budget is maintaining the collection, but it is not enough for innovative initiatives such as the Read Along books or toys. These books were funded with a grant because there isn't enough funding available for new collections with our current book budget.

- We will be introducing Board Games as another new circulating collection in the next month.

- I will be representing the library and presenting at the upcoming Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion on November 20 at 6:30 p.m.

- New genre/author bookmarks created by Drue Chappelle are available at both library locations. These bookmarks include recommendations of titles the library carries. Each bookmark is focused on a specific popular author or genre.

Building News:

- Thanks to Public Works for installing our logo to the new front service desk at Bill Library.

3. Investment Working Group

Nothing to report.

4. Consortium Working Group

The group met on November 12 with Justin Dube, MIS Director for the Town of Ledyard. The town seems to be very willing to help out with the library's IT needs and also with hardware that needs to be replaced.

Preliminary LION budget was shared and discussed. Ledyard can expect to see a 3.39% overall increase for LION consortium services for 2025-2026. There is a 3% increase for both Operational and online catalog costs. Plus a 5% increase for both Overdrive/Libby (e-material collection) and delivery services. The challenging part about the Overdrive collection is that e-books are metered and only owned for 2 years or 24 checkouts, whichever comes first, while print books are owned by the library for the long term. Ms. Smith has asked LION for clarification about their budget and how they come up with the fees as Ledyard seems to be paying a lot compared with other libraries such as West Haven.

5. Friends of the Ledyard Library

One of the main fundraisers the Friends sponsor is the Snowflake Festival which is this Saturday, November 23, 2024. Both library locations have baskets which are part of the silent auction. The Friends will also have a craft and bake sale on the day of the fundraiser. All proceeds go towards support of the library.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Library Commission meeting from October 21, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Ralph Hightower

SECONDER: Rolf Racich

AYE 6 Bolduc Candler Hightower Racich Diette Wright

EXCUSED 2 Grenger Rumery

VIII. OLD BUSINESS**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Elections of Library Commission Leadership - December

Next month is election of the library commission leadership. Mr. Bolduc is willing to continue as a Chair unless somebody else would like to take on the role. Mr. Hightower is willing to stay as treasurer and Mr. Bolduc will consult with Ms. Rumery to see if she would like to continue as the Vice-Chair.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

VOTE: 6-0 Approved and so declared

The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2024 at Gales Ferry Library.

Respectively Submitted,

John Bolduc
Commission Chair

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