



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, December 16, 2024

7:00 PM

Gales Ferry Library

Gales Ferry Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

- Present** Chairman John Bolduc
 Commissioner Barbara Candler
 Treasurer Ralph Hightower
 Vice Chair Elizabeth Rumery
 Commissioner Rolf Racich
 Commissioner Peter Diette
 Commissioner Cynthia Wright
 Commissioner Wendy Hellekson
- Late** Secretary Ellin Grenger

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 Wendy Hellekson

Ms. Hellekson introduced herself and shared a bit about her background. She has her Bachelors in Psychology, a Masters in ESL and Library Science. She is currently the School Librarian at Gallup Hill School in Ledyard and bring lots of teaching and school experience to the Commission.

2. At the Town Council’s October 23, 2024 meeting the following Members were reappointed to the Library Commission:

- Mr. Ralph Hightower
- Mr. Rolf Racich
- Mr. Peter Diette

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

VI. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hightower reported on the November Treasurer's Report. Library Commission budget: November received \$140 in donations from Commissioners in honor of Rebecca Nash and another donor. Reported expenses of \$1,387.82.

Library Investment Funds - No activity for Either Library account or the Gales Ferry Library account.

2. Director's Report

Ms. Smith presented the December Director's report.

Budget News:

- I've put together the proposed FY2026 library budget that we will review tonight.

Library News:

- Staffing two buildings continues to be a challenge with only 15 staff members. I think having an additional Library Associate on staff to assist with coverage will be beneficial. The job has been posted and we will be reviewing applications in the coming weeks.
- Our circulating board game collection went "live" at the end of November. We are starting small using a combination of donated games and a few new games that were purchased with the Toy Library grant. Staff have picked up on the new circulation procedures well and I am grateful for a team open to these changes and new initiatives.

Building News:

- We ordered 6 new adjustable tables for the Bill Library meeting room using the investment funds. The 4 gray tables from Bill that were purchased with funding from the Friends will move over to Gales Ferry. This will update both meeting spaces and better meet staff and public needs.

3. Investment Working Group

Mr. Bolduc reported that the group will be meeting in January, 2025.

4. Consortium Working Group

Mr. Racich reported that the group will be meeting in January, 2025.

5. Friends of the Ledyard Library

Mr. Bolduc reported that the Snowflake Festival results are pending.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Library Commission meeting from November 18, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Rolf Racich

SECONDER: Cynthia Wright

AYE 9 Bolduc Grenger Candler Hightower Rumery Racich Diette Wright Hellekson

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to approve the proposed FY2026 Library budget.

Motion to amend to approve a 2.5% increase for the Library Associates based on anticipated cost of living increases over the next year.

Moved by Ms. Grenger, seconded by Mr. Racich.

VOTE: 9-0 approved and so declared.

Motion to amend to restore the Library Page position for up to 15 hours per pay period at \$16.35/hour.

Moved by Mr. Racich, seconded by Ms. Rumery.

VOTE: 9-0 approved and so declared.

Motion to amend to approve an hourly rate of \$22.44 for the Sunday Supervisor.

Moved by Mr. Diette, seconded by Ms. Grenger.

VOTE: 9-0 approved and so declared.

Motion to amend to approve a \$1,000 increase based on need to supplement programming budget, particularly for children.

Moved by Mr. Racich, seconded by Ms. Wright.

VOTE: 9-0 approved and so declared.

Motion to amend to approve \$31.00 increase to budget for annual renewal of domain name.

Moved by Ms. Wright, seconded by Ms. Hellekson

VOTE: 9-0 approved and so declared.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Elizabeth Rumery

SECONDER: Rolf Racich

AYE 9 Bolduc Grenger Candler Hightower Rumery Racich Diette Wright Hellekson

2. Motion to approve the following Library Commission slate of officers for 2025:
Mr. John Bolduc - Chair

Mr. Rolf Racich - Vice Chair
Mr. Ralph Hightower - Treasurer
Ms. Ellin Grenger - Secretary

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Peter Diette

SECONDER: Cynthia Wright

AYE 9 Bolduc Grenger Candler Hightower Rumery Racich Diette Wright
Hellekson

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hightower moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Ms. Grenger.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

VOTE: 9-0 Approved and so declared

The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2025 at the Bill Library.

Respectively Submitted,

John Bolduc
Commission Chair

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