TOWN OF LEDYARD

Library Commission

Meeting Minutes - Draft Minutes

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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, February 24, 2025 **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
Recording Secretary Ellin Grenger
Commissioner Barbara Candler
Treasurer Ralph Hightower
Commissioner Elizabeth Rumery
Vice Chair Rolf Racich
Commissioner Peter Diette
Commissioner Cynthia Wright
Commissioner Wendy Hellekson

In addition, the following were present:
Jennifer Smith - Library Director
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry - Town Council Liaison
Diane Holmberg - Bill Library Association President
Rich Denton - Bill Library Association Treasurer
Roberta Levandoski - Volunteer and Community Member
Sarah Desormier - Friends of the Library President

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Ms. Holmberg, President of the BLA, raised concerns regarding the language in the Bill Library lease. Trustees have noted the lack of clarity in the lease and are seeking answers as to whether any future expenses due to unexpected environmental damage or catastrophic problems to the Bill Library would be covered by the Town.

Ms. Levandoski, Library Volunteer, spoke about volunteers at the library and how they provide a connection to the community.

Ms. Desormier, Friends of the Library President, let Commissioners know her term as President is ending in April. The Friends are looking for nominations to fill the spot. In addition, the Friends are hosting a Speed Puzzling fundraiser at Bill Library in March. They are looking for support and for everyone to encourage their friends to attend the event.

Mr. Bolduc thanked everyone for their comments and updated the group with the following:
* Library budget will be heard on March 15 and Commissioners or members of the public are welcome to attend via zoom.
* A working group has been established for hiring a new Library Director. A potluck dinner for Jen Smith, outgoing Library Director will be held on February 27 at 5:15 p.m. at the Bill Library.
* Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the Library newsletter if they are not already receiving it. You can sign up for the newsletter online through the library website www.LedyardLibrary.org.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. ACLB Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 newsletter

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Rumery commented on the importance of our library volunteers noting the "three legged stool" approach defined in the ACLB newsletter attached.

VI. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hightower presented the January Treasurer's Report. There are no changes to the report as submitted.

2. Director's Report

Director’s Report
Budget News:
• The Library Preliminary Budget Work Session is scheduled with the Finance Committee on Thursday, March 13 at 1:15 p.m. Erica Christofferson, our Administrative Assistant, has agreed to represent the library as she is familiar with the library budget.
• We have several hearts on display at both Bill and Gales Ferry Library as part of our “I Love Ledyard Library” campaign. Donations are slow, but we are really enjoying seeing all the great things our patrons have to say about their library!
Library News:
• The Library Director job has been posted. John and I met with the HR Director to discuss details and ensure the Commission would be included in the interviewing process.
• Adult program highlight - Best Day Hikes in CT and RI with Steve Fagin on Monday, March 10, 6:00 P.M. Bill Library
We welcoming outdoor writer and Ledyard resident Steve Fagin as he discusses his newest book, AMC’s Best Day Hikes in Connecticut & Rhode Island, an illustrated guide featuring maps and color photographs for 60 different local hikes.
• Teen program highlight - Cookie Canvas Challenge on Saturday, March 1, 10:30 A.M. Bill

Library. Decorate plain cookies with colorful icing, sprinkles, and other confectionery embellishments to create unique and imaginative designs. Registration required for ages 10 - 18.
• Children's program highlight - Dig In! Saturday, April 12, 10:30 A.M. Bill Library. Join us for this popular Ledyard Seed Library program! We will once again have Allyson Angelini from Full Heart farm here to do a planting workshop. NEW THIS YEAR! We are happy to announce that Ledyard Middle School teacher and composting expert Eric Wellman will be a part of this event. He will be bringing microscopes so that participants will be able to observe what is in worm tea on the microscopic level. We will also have Jean Scialabba, a worm composter and organic gardener, here to explain worm composting. Registration required for ages 4-12.

Building News:
• Heat update: The Bill Library has been maintaining a fairly comfortable temperature. Thermostats in the main area of the library are set higher to try to keep temps moderate during this cold weather. The back work areas always get cold and space heaters are necessary. We are still waiting for the technician to come out to the Gales Ferry Library to inspect that system and make recommendations.

Finally, since this will be my last Library Commission meeting in Ledyard, I wanted to thank each of you again for allowing me to work alongside you for nearly three years. Time has flown, but together as a team, we have achieved great things. I am proud of all our accomplishments, especially the overall increases in library usage and securing grant funding to make both library buildings more welcoming and accessible to everyone.

While it is never easy to say goodbye, I am confident that the Ledyard Library will continue to succeed in future years. I will always cherish the memories and relationships I've formed here. Thank you again for all your hard work, dedication to the community, and for making this experience so rewarding!

3. Investment Working Group

Mr. Bolduc shared the group meets quarterly and did not meet this month. He invited the BLA Trustees or members of the public to join any meeting. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. at Bill Library.

4. Consortium Working Group

Mr. Racich recommended the group may be on hiatus until a new Library Director is on board. The group will then pick up where they left off.

5. Friends of the Ledyard Library

Mr. Bolduc mentioned Ms. Desormier already updated the Commission on the Friends and to note her comments above.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Library Commission meeting from January 27, 2025.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED
MOVER: Ellin Grenger
SECONDER: Cynthia Wright

AYE 9 Bolduc Grenger Candler Hightower Rumery Racich Diette Wright Hellekson

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Racich moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Ms. Hellekson.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared

The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2025 at Bill Library.

Respectively Submitted,

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John Bolduc
Commission Chair

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