



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, January 22, 2024

7:00 PM

Gales Ferry Library

Gales Ferry Library

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bolduc called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Gales Ferry Library.

II. ROLL CALL

- Present** Chair John Bolduc
- Commissioner Barbara Candler
- Commissioner Brian Cronin
- Commissioner Ralph Hightower
- Commissioner Rebecca Nash
- Commissioner Carol Ganz
- Commissioner Elizabeth Rumery
- Commissioner Rolf Racich
- Late** Commissioner 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. Appreciation for library programs

Ms. Smith shared a note from a library patron who uses the library frequently and enjoys the Senior Book Club. The patron mentioned "For the past several years I have enjoyed the book discussions very much. I rarely missed a session." This isn't the first time our patrons have shared positive feedback about our library programming. Programs are a great way to bring our community together while providing a safe public place for learning, discovering, creating, and connecting.

2. Gen Z and Millennials article on Public Library Use

An article titled *Gen Z and Millennials How They Use Public Libraries and Identify Through Media Use* by Kathi Inman Berens, Ph.D. and Rachel Noorda, Ph.D. was reviewed. Chair Bolduc pointed out a sentence from page 16 stating "A simple external link from digital borrowing apps, such as Libby, to the branch library's website could make a big difference in keeping local branch libraries squarely in Gen Z and millennials' consideration set." He asked Ms. Smith if we could link our library website to the Libby and Hoopla websites. Ms. Smith will follow up.

Ms. Smith also wanted to discuss a few statistics the article summarized. On page 2, the following statistic was explained: "75% of Gen Z and millennial physical library patrons believe a library wait of one week or less is long." When we are able to have what patrons are looking for on our shelves, their library experience is positive. The article went on to explain that "print is the preferred format" for Gen Zers and Millennials. Hence, the reason to continue to advocate for an increase to our physical book budget. Back in 2012, our book budget was \$60,000 and this year it is only \$50,000 despite books costing much more than they did 12 years ago. According to the most current state library statistics, the state average per capita expenses for library materials is \$5.15, and Ledyard spends \$4.61.

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

VI. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hightower presented the December Treasurer's report. A revised report will be sent out to Commissioners to correct the way we are now listing the Investment account dividends and interest. A point was made that although Ms. Smith has the option to spend \$1,000 from the Gales Ferry Library account and \$600 from the Either Library account this year, these amounts should only reflect what was actually received and spent. The \$504.28 amount was spent from the Gales Ferry Library account to replace the outside library sign at Gales Ferry. This amount will be shown in the revised December receipts and expenditures.

2. Director's Report

Ms. Smith presented the January Director's report.

Budget News:

- There was a significant adjustment to the FY25 library budget and the expense of the new photocopiers will be added to the libraries operating budget putting that line at \$21,262.00

Library News:

- Alyssa Drake accepted the Assistant Librarian I - Adult Services position and started January 16, 2024.
- The Library Technician II - Youth Services position interviews have concluded and a job offer has been made.
- The Library Associate position has been filled by Drue Chappelle who made a seamless transition from Substitute Library Associate.

Building News:

- Both buildings are in good working order.

Town News:

- I meet with the Mayor on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. for the Library budget meeting.

3. Friends of the Ledyard Library Report

Nothing to report.

4. Investment Working Group

Chair Bolduc reported that the group met with Sal Tocco earlier this month to review the performance of the investment accounts. Funds are showing good returns overall.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Library Commission meeting from December 11, 2023.**

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Rolf Racich

SECONDER: Carol Ganz

AYE 8 Bolduc Candler Cronin Hightower Nash Ganz Rumery Racich

VIII. OLD BUSINESS**1. FY25 Department Budget Meeting**

Ms. Smith reported she meets with the Mayor and Finance Director on Tuesday, January 23 at 9:30 a.m. to present the FY25 Library proposed budget.

2. Motion to approve the FY 25 budget as revised to add in the copier total (\$21,262.00) to the operating budget line.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Rebecca Nash

SECONDER: Rolf Racich

AYE 8 Bolduc Candler Cronin Hightower Nash Ganz Rumery Racich

3. Consortium Update

Ms. Smith has been gathering information about CT Consortium options consistently over the last year. She presented Commissioners with a comparison chart based on her findings and conversations with consortium directors. Although there are four consortium options in the state, Ms. Smith explained that the smallest of the four is so small that it would not be a suitable option for Ledyard. The comparison chart gives a break down of the three largest consortiums including detail regarding services, support, delivery, other, and a total cost for what it would cost for Ledyard to belong to Bibliomation, or Library Connection Inc. (LCI), and LION to

which we currently belong.

The consortium comparison chart was reviewed line by line and Ms. Smith explained each service and benefit to Commissioners. It is likely LION would charge a fee to leave the consortium, but the expenses are unknown at this point. LION has increased their membership fees by a minimum of 3% in recent years and this trend is expected to continue. Ms. Smith has shared with Commissioners that the benefits of belonging to LION are dwindling while the costs to belong to LION continue to skyrocket. Thus, the reasoning behind taking the time to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and compare our other statewide consortium options.

Ms. Smith has received a quote from the two consortiums to which we do not belong. Bibliomation proposed \$23,750 for Ledyard to join while LCI proposed \$26,059. These totals do not reflect the costs of also opting into OverDrive (e-book collection) so we would likely see around a \$2,000 to \$2,500 increase to Bibliomation and LCI quotes mentioned above. LION would likely be in the ballpark of \$54,135 (including OverDrive costs which break out to approximately \$6,600) although Ms. Smith did not reach out to LION directly for this quote.

Overall Commissioners take-a-way seemed to be that we may be able to decrease the costs of consortium membership and have improved service with a much more forward thinking consortium. The money we could save by joining a different consortium with improved services could then be reallocated back to the library to fill other needs such as increasing our book budget, setting aside money for library programming, and professional development for library staff. Ms. Nash made a point that it seems we have eliminated Bibliomation mainly due to the fact they solely rely on the State of CT for delivery (to which we only receive one delivery a week) and they are a consortium with mainly small public libraries.

Ms. Smith also provided Commissioners with a list of the top 25 public libraries in the state for circulation. Circulation indicates how busy a library is and how often items are borrowed. She pointed out the data shows 11 out of the 25 are LCI libraries. Only 3 out of the 25 are LION libraries and there are only 2 Bibliomation libraries. The other libraries mentioned are standalones which would not be an option for Ledyard. Right now we are in the larger half of the libraries in LION, but in LCI, we would be one of the smallest - i.e. we would have a large group of big busy libraries to borrow from in the consortium delivery system which would provide Ledyard patrons with great borrowing options.

If a consortium migration is something Commissioners want to consider, we would need to provide LION with one year notice at the June annual meeting. Ms. Smith asked Commissioners to digest the information discussed and email her with any questions they may have before our next meeting in February. In the meantime, Ms. Smith will follow up on the questions that were raised including topics around barcodes, scanning equipment, library card portability, nonprofit status, open source programming, etc. Commissioners seem interested in comparing and contrasting LCI with LION at this point.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to approve the revised holiday closing schedule to include the Mayor's floating holiday on Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Ellin Grenger

SECONDER: Elizabeth Rumery

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

VOTE: 9-0 Approved and so declared

The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2024 at the 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.