

CROMWELL LIBRARY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Arch Room

Record of Votes and Minutes

Present: Chairman Al Dickerson, Margaret Colella, Barbara Grotheer, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto

Also Present: Library Director Eileen Branciforte, Gerald Seagrave

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chairman Al Dickerson. The presence of the above members was noted.
2. Approve/Amend Agenda: **Martha Rennie moved to approve the agenda for March 14, 2011. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Margaret Colella, Barbara Grotheer, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson.**
3. Approval of Minutes: **Martha Rennie moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2011 as amended. Kathy Newton seconded. In favor: Margaret Colella, Barbara Grotheer, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson.**
Amendment: Delete the sentence reading, "There has been an offer from a high school student to work on the library website."
4. Citizens' Comments: none
5. Board of Selectmen-liaison comments: None, not present.
6. Correspondence: Al Dickerson noted the receipt of a letter from the Association of Connecticut Library Boards asking us to become members. There is a \$100 fee. The Commission will not be joining at this time.
The Library Director noted comments from the suggestion box. One suggestion was to provide a clock near the magazine and newspaper reading area. This has been done. Another suggestion was to provide for public faxing at the library. The Library cannot support a high volume of faxing, so no company is willing to provide a fax machine. The Director is looking into the use of the Library office fax machine for limited public use. A procedure is being developed and it is expected to be brought to the Commission at its next meeting.

A third suggestion asked for a 6-week loan for book club selections. A related suggestion asked that the Library purchase a number of copies of books for private book discussion groups. Discussion followed on these items. The Library does not have the funds to purchase many copies of books; we borrow as many copies of selections as possible through Inter-Library Loan when given advance notice from book clubs. It would be difficult to set up a separate loan time frame for book clubs. Patrons can take out a book and then renew it for an additional three weeks now, for a total of 6 weeks.

7. Reports –

a. Chairman: none

b. Library Director: Computer system problems mentioned have been resolved. The roof maintenance contract has been extended until 2012. There have been no new leaks. **Marie Roberto moved to accept the Director's Report for February 2011. Seconded by Margaret Colella. In favor: Margaret Colella, Barbara Grotheer, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson.**

c. Finances: Some money was charged to the library materials account in error; the mistake has been corrected by the Town. **Martha Rennie moved to accept the Financial Report for February 2011. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Margaret Colella, Barbara Grotheer, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson.** The Director provided information on the progress of the 2011-2012 budget. The Library Director made a \$5,000 cut from last year's approved budget. The Selectmen did not make any further cuts. The Board of Finance will hold its budget hearings on April 6 and April 11.

8. Old Business: The library staff has created a Facebook page under Cromwell Belden Public Library. It will be managed by Library Technical Assistant Seth Ramos. At the moment the Library does not have the money or the staff to create and maintain its own website. Increased foot traffic in the Library is keeping everyone busy. The Library will need to make a plan for a future website, however, in order to provide updated information to patrons.

The Friends of the Library plan to send out a newsletter to Library supporters in the April. They are sponsoring a mini-book sale on March 19.

Both the ConnectiCar and ConnectiCard programs are in jeopardy in the State budget. The State Librarian and others are in negotiation to keep these vital programs and make cuts elsewhere. Libraries will lose some funding.

9. New Business: Election of officers. **Martha Rennie nominated Al Dickerson for Chairman. Kathy Newton seconded. In favor: Margaret Colella, Barbara Grotheer, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto. Al Dickerson abstained. Kathy Newton nominated Barbara Grotheer as Vice Chairman. Joe Marino seconded. In favor: Margaret Colella, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson. Barbara Grotheer abstained.**

10. Miscellaneous: Gerald Seagrave attended a meeting of the Connecticut Library Association. Budget concerns were discussed. The annual conference of this organization will be held May 2 and 3 in Stamford.

11. Next regular meeting date: April 11, 2011

12. Adjournment: **Marie Roberto moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Margaret Colella seconded. In favor: Margaret Colella, Barbara Grotheer, Joe Marino, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Grotheer
Acting Secretary