


**AMENDED MEETING MINUTES**  
**Cromwell Library Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, June 12, 2023**  
**At 6:30 PM**  
**The Arch Room**

**Present:** Chairman Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto,  
Barbara Grotheer

**Also Present:** Library Director Kara Canney, Town Council Liaison Paula Luna,  
Gerald Seagrave

**Absent:** Margaret Colella

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
Jul 11, 2023 11:41A  
JoAnn Doyle  
TOWN CLERK  
CROMWELL, CT 

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman K. Newton at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Approve/Amend Agenda:**

A motion was made by B. Grotheer to approve the agenda for Monday, June 12, 2023,  
seconded by M. Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**3. Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2023:**

A motion was made by M. Roberto to approve the amended minutes of May 8, 2023,  
seconded by M. Rennie. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**4. Town Council Liaison Comments:**

Town Councilor P. Luna stated that the new Middle School Referendum passed. The  
Middle School Building Committee reapplied for and received the grant, based on the  
new figure of \$74 million. This will increase the reimbursement rate to approximately  
49%, rather than 39%; which saves the town approximately seven million dollars.

The Town Council has not seen the Climate Study results as yet.

**5. Citizens' Comments:**

None

## 6. Reports:

### **Chairman's Report –**

None

### **Library Director –**

Director Canney talked with Ellen Paul, Executive Director of the Connecticut Library Consortium regarding the Strategic Library Planning Cohort. Ellen is 90% sure she is putting us in the first round of the cohort, which will start this summer. We should know for sure this week.

There are a couple of Senate bills that CLC and other library directors were really pushing. One of them was the bill that would make the publishers recognize that charging a library extra on e-books was ridiculous. Fortunately, that was sort of squashed and was tabled, without time to further discuss it.

Another Senate bill was initially written to make all libraries sanctuary libraries, and then they put in a clause saying "any book that was banned, a library must have on the shelf." Librarians spoke up against this to say that there are policies and procedures in place and a selection policy. Director Canney believes this bill has passed. There is also a bill for an additional \$1,200 of funding which has not been available since 2014, that is now coming back.

**Grants:** The library was awarded the Creative Aging in CT Pilot Grant. In partnership with Lifetime Arts, the 10 chosen libraries will learn the foundational principles of the creative aging educational program model, including tools for implementing a program at their institution to serve the older adults in their communities. Programs will be developed and implemented in these pilot libraries in the fall of 2023.

The library is still awaiting the decisions of other exciting grant opportunities.

**Programming:** A big thank you to the community leaders (Town Manager Salvatore, Mayor Fortenbach, Chief Lamontagne and Sergeant Kogut) who attended the rescheduled planting party at the CBPL Children's Garden. The plants are looking fabulous even with the strange weather we have been experiencing. The next garden event will be an ice cream celebration and story-time featuring Tall Man's ice cream on June 26 at 6 PM. Open Garden will begin on Wednesday mornings in July.

Our Summer Reading Kick-Off Event for *Have Book, Will Travel* will be on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at Frisbee Landing with musical entertainment the Heavy Hitters. The library will close at 4:30 that day. Like previous years, we have partnered with the Recreation Department for two concerts this summer and they are always a hit!

**Other:** Dirk Heinzmann from building maintenance is building smaller raised beds at an appropriate height for our little gardeners. This will be an amazing addition to the garden. Director Canney would also like to thank Kevin McKnight and Anthony Salvatore, Jr. for all of their help in the CBPL Children's Garden.

Director Canney attended a SEAL workshop at the Middletown Service Center on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> that focused on activities pertaining to the upcoming solar eclipses. The speakers were from the Space Science Institute and focused on educational and fun activities that correlate to the Annular Eclipse on October 14<sup>th</sup> of 2023 and the bigger event for our area on April 8<sup>th</sup> of 2024.

Sir Lancesloth is going on a Road Trip! The library's sloth mascot has been invited to visit over 70 libraries as far as Australia! The requirements for the visit are a stamp in his passport, photographs of his visit and the ability to mail him to his next destination. Stay tuned for his adventures.

Mark Jahne from *Cromwell Life* came to interview Director Canney and Naomi about the Friends, the resurgence of the Friends, and how the library has adapted during and after Covid. Not sure when we can expect the article.

**Statistics:** Programming is always looking wonderful; especially compared to last year. Circulation is slightly higher. The door counts have about evened out.

#### **Finance Report –**

Director Canney said the department is in the process of closing out this fiscal year. They are only using their existing purchase orders.

A motion was made by B. Grotheer to accept both the Library Director's Report and the Finance Report, seconded by M. Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

#### **7. Old Business:**

Director Canney said that the fans will be installed in the Belden Room the week of June 26<sup>th</sup>. All daytime programs will be cancelled or moved to another location for that week.

#### **8. New Business:**

None

**9. Other:**

Director Newton proposed there being no August meeting and everyone was in agreement.

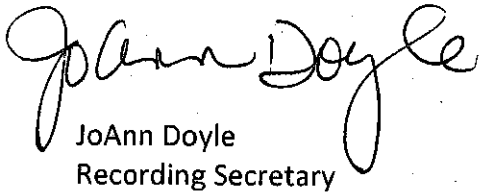
**10. Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting date is Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**11. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by M. Rennie to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. seconded by M. Roberto. *All in favor; motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
JoAnn Doyle  
Recording Secretary