

**AMENDED MEETING MINUTES**  
**Cromwell Library Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, June 13 2022**  
**At 6:30 PM**  
**The Arch Room**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
Sep 20, 2022 09:04A  
JoAnn Doyle  
TOWN CLERK  
CROMWELL, CT



**Present:** Chairman Margaret Colella, Martha Rennie, Kathy Newton, Marie Roberto, Megan Blanchette, Barbara Grotheer

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

**Absent:** Karen Spotts

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Margaret Colella at 6:34 PM.

**2. Approve/Amend Agenda:**

A motion was made by Marie Roberto to approve the agenda for Monday, June 13, 2022, seconded by Barbara Grotheer. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**3. Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2022:**

A motion was made by Barbara Grotheer to approve the minutes of May 9, 2022, seconded by Megan Blanchette. *All in favor; motion passed.* There were two corrections, which will be updated. A motion was made by Marie Roberto to accept the amended minutes, seconded by Barbara Grotheer. Amended minutes will be filed.

**4. Selection of Chairman & Vice Chairman:**

A motion was made by Marie Roberto to nominate Kathy Newton as Chairman, seconded by Martha Rennie. *All in favor; motion passed.* A motion was made by Barbara Grotheer to nominate Margaret Colella as Vice Chairman, seconded by Martha Rennie. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**5. Town Council Liaison Comments:**

Town Councilor Paula Luna said that the Town Council had a meeting last week on June 8<sup>th</sup>. She reminded everyone that there is a referendum on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the high school, to appropriate \$58,604,400 for costs related to the construction of a new middle school and central offices. The estimated total cost to

Cromwell is \$36,491,200, after the State grant, and not the whole appropriation amount of \$58,604,400.

The Farmer's Market opened on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and it was a huge success. When it happened again this past Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, it was high school graduation and there weren't as many people there – but it was still very successful. It lasts through September 30<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

The Chief of Police said that plans are well under way for the Traveler's Championship at River Highlands, which takes place from June 22 – June 26.

Jon Harriman, the Town Engineer, reported that the architectural firm of Silver Petrucelli is putting together three conceptual designs and a cost estimate for a community/senior center. The location is unknown at this time. They are looking at a couple of places at Watrous Park and also Pierson Park, but nothing is determined at this point. Jon said the estimated cost is \$18 million.

Both Jon Herriman and the Police Chief commented on the osprey nest located on the top of a light pole on the football field at Pierson Park. The osprey is a federally-protected raptor, and the eggs hatch in the fall. The nest can be moved, but not before the fall. The problem is that that particular light cannot be turned off. Our Animal Control Officer is constantly monitoring the situation. When the osprey and the babies all go, they're going to install something on the top, so they can't build any more.

The new Public Works Director has been hired. It is Lou Spina, the former Public Works Director; who was here from August 2014 until October 2021. He realized he missed working in Cromwell and decided to re-apply for the position. The Council approved his appointment on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Citizens' Comments:** None

**7. Reports:**

**Chairman's Report** - None

**Library Director** –

We have Summer Reading Kickoff starting next Wednesday. We're hoping to do even more registrations than last year. Last year we did 130 and we ran out of stuff. We're partnering with Tall Man's Ice Cream again, with the \$1.00 coupon and we upped it to 100 coupons this year. We did a different color bag and we decided not to do the summer reading book; we just ended up with too many extra copies. We took that money and instead we are doing two summer wrap up concerts this year. When you sign up for summer reading, you will get a white-on-white t-shirt, because we're going

to have tie dye parties. Everyone thinks summer reading is just for kids, but it is not. We do it for adults, too. We have had requests for adults to get stickers to mark their reading squares, so they will be getting the stickers, too.

The newsletter is out with our list of programming. We're going to be doing a different brochure for the events happening at the garden. We are still waiting to see if we've received the grant; we are a finalist and should know in the next two weeks. That grant will include everything we will need to fill out the rest of the beds. We've done the first four. We had a soft opening last week and that was a lot of fun. When I went down to the garden earlier, I talked with some people there who were very happy to know that the Town had taken over and they are very excited to see that it was the Library, and want to see the garden brought back to life. I've talked to the Town Manager about having an evening there, sort of a party atmosphere; grill hot dogs for everyone in the community garden, invite everyone to come and plant, and do other fun things. We're hoping it's just an extension of library programming with more outdoors – getting our hands in dirt. The Bee Happy Children's Garden is now the Cromwell Belden Public Library Children's Garden. Emily is doing orientation this summer for the teen volunteers and one of the things they can sign up for is to weed the garden.

So far, the plants look really good – especially the pumpkins. We planted two kinds; the Long Island Cheese (it looks like a wheel of cheese and they're really great for pies), and the Connecticut Field Pumpkin. We're in the start of the Sunflower Project, a national initiative where you monitor the sunflowers' growth, count how many pollinators there are, and update the information.

We had interviews last week to hire our last part-time person, in order to be fully staffed once again. We should be fully staffed very soon.

Director Canney mentioned, and is really excited about, being able to have real, actual concrete numbers from the door counts. This is something that is going to be really helpful, especially when we can start comparing real data year-to-year, month-to-month, days before holidays, and even weather patterns. This is going to be very beneficial to how we serve the community, how we staff the desk and how we plan programs.

A motion was made by Kathy Newton to accept the Library Director's Report, seconded by Marie Roberto. *All were in favor; motion passed.*

#### **Finance Report –**

Director Canney said that there is money in departmental expenses and it will be spent down to zero. We are going through and making sure that we have adequate supplies for next year.

A motion was made by Martha Rennie to accept the Finance Report, seconded by Barbara Grotheer. *All were in favor; motion passed.*

**8. Old Business:**

Director Canney gave an update on the Belden Room: Tucker Mechanical came out and they think that we need a board to fix the one heating and air conditioning unit that wasn't working correctly. The part should be in in the next couple of days and the new board should be put in during the next week or so. Once that's done, they will test it to make sure the output air is the correct temperature and we should see a change in the humidity.

**9. New Business:**

Kathy Newton mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2022 and that most people are on vacation during July and August. The Commission agreed to adjourn for July and August.

Director Canney mentioned that the policies are about three-quarters done and we will be working on them during the summer months. We will plan to present it in September.

Director Canney asked for Library Commission volunteers for the meeting with the Executive Board of the Friends, to formalize the role and goals of the organization. Chairman Margaret Colella and Marie Roberto volunteered and will attend the meeting.

**10. Other:**

None

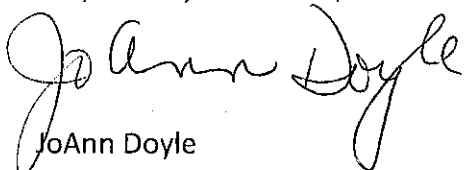
**11. Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting date is Monday, September 12, 2022.

**12. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Barbara Grotheer to adjourn at 7:25 PM, seconded by Megan Blanchette. *All were in favor; motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
JoAnn Doyle  
Recording Secretary