

CROMWELL LIBRARY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2015 @ 7:30 p.m.

Arch Room

Record of Votes and Minutes

Present: Chairman Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Diane Mongold, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie

Also Present: Eileen Branciforte, Library Director; Gerald Seagrave

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by Chairman Marie Roberto.

2. **Approve/Amend Agenda:** *Martha Rennie moved to approve the December 14, 2015, agenda. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Diane Mongold, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie.*

3. **Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2015:** *Kathy Newton moved to approve the Library Commission minutes of November 9 as amended. Diane Mongold seconded. Amendments: 6b) Barbara Grotheer moved to accept the October 2015 Library Director's Report. . . . Martha Rennie moved to accept the July 2015 Library Director's Report. . . . Martha Rennie moved to accept the August 2015 Library Director's Report. 6c) Kathy Newton moved to accept the October 2015 Library Finance Report. In favor: Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Diane Mongold, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie.*

4. **Citizens' Comments:** Jerry Seagrave provided information on the recent cuts to the State Library Budget. There has been a total cut of 9% involving reductions in several line items including Digital Library, Legislative Matters, Computer Access, Support Cooperating Library Services, Grants to Public Libraries, and Connecticard Payments. Gerald Seagrave, Barbara Grotheer and others commented on recent events at the Cromwell Historical Society, including the Holiday Open House.

5. **Town Council Liaison Comments:** Postponed, representative not present.

6. Reports

- a. **Chairman:** Marie Roberto commended Library Director Eileen Branciforte for her recent letter that appeared in the Cromwell Chronicle. The letter expressed appreciation to the various groups and individuals that support our Library. Marie also commended the teen "Spark A Change" group for their enthusiasm and many activities. Marie and Eileen recently attended an event of the Jane Austen Society of Connecticut. Our Library offered to host one of their book discussions in the future. The Library is offering festive activities during Saturdays in December. The

Friends hosted the event on December 5 and the teen group hosted the event on December 12. A discussion was held and the Commission will host the event on December 19. Barbara Grotheer and Marie Roberto will volunteer for part of the time. Other members will let Eileen know of their availability. Marie noted that the terms of four Commission members will expire in February. All of those members wish to be reappointed. Marie will send a letter to the Mayor to that effect. Marie also noted that elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission will be held in March.

b. Library Director's Report: Martha Rennie asked for clarification on the use of capital funds. The Director provided an update on the broken delivery contract by Avant with the State Library. This will have an impact on book deliveries to our Library from other libraries. The system may experience a significant gap in coverage until the State resolves the situation. Marie Roberto questioned the statistics in the Materials Borrowed section. The Director responded that the system of counting materials in this category has changed since last year. The system is now updated and more accurate. *Martha Rennie moved to accept the Director's Report for November 2015. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Diane Mongold, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie.*

c. Finance Report: The report was reviewed. *Martha Rennie moved to accept the Finance Report of November 30, 2015. Seconded by Diane Mongold. In favor: Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Diane Mongold, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie.*

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: The Commission reviewed a report on Fall activities by the Friends of the Library submitted by Terry Crescimanno, Adult Services Librarian, who is the Library liaison with the Friends group. Terry will be reporting quarterly to the Commission on activities of the Friends. The Commission requested that the Director thank Terry for his efforts.

The Director noted that the Teen program is doing well. They have sold crafts at several local events to raise money for various charities and Library events. The group has displayed much enthusiasm.

9. Other: It is hoped that the Mayor will attend January's Commission meeting. We need to discuss possible plans for the Library expansion project, the need for architect's drawings, and other related matters.

10. Next regular meeting is January 11, 2016.

11. **Adjournment:** *Al Dickerson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Seconded by Martha Rennie. In favor: Marie Roberto, Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Diane Mongold, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie.*

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Grotheer