

MEETING MINUTES
Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022
At 6:30 PM
The Belden Room

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Feb 17, 2022 11:05A
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT

Present: Chairman Margaret Colella, Martha Rennie (via Zoom),
Kathy Newton, Marie Roberto (via Zoom), Megan Blanchette, Paula Luna,

Also Present: Library Director Kara Canney, Paula Luna, Gerald Seagrave

Absent: Karen Spotts, Barbara Grotheer

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Margaret Colella at 6:32 PM.

2. Introductions:

Chairman Colella noted that there were several new people at the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

3. Approve/Amend Agenda:

A motion was made by Kathy Newton to approve the agenda for Monday, February 14, 2022, seconded by Chairman Canney. All were in favor, motion passed.

4. Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2021:

A motion was made Kathy Newton to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021, seconded by Marie Roberto. There were quite a few corrections that were reviewed and will be updated. Amended minutes will be filed.

A motion was made by Marth Rennie to accept the amendments to the December 13, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Kathy Newton. All in favor, motion passed.

5. Town Council Liaison Comments:

Town Councilor Paula Luna discussed that on January 12, 2022, a building school committee was formed; a seven-member project committee, to oversee the Cromwell Middle School renovation. The seven members are: Ken Jackson, John Post, Matt

Blanchette, Rosanna Glynn, Ken Cleveland, Shannon Hughes-Brown and Blaise Messenger.

Ms. Luna also discussed that on January 12, 2022 a new proposed ordinance prohibiting the use of cannabis on public property located within, owned or controlled by the Town of Cromwell was unanimously approved. The ordinance becomes effective today, February 14, 2022.

On February 2, 2022 a distribution of masks and COVID-19 test kits was held at the Town Hall parking lot. Anyone needing masks or test kits who was not able to attend this distribution can stop by the Health Department in Town Hall to request them. It was not a big turnout at all, compared to the month before.

The town received a proposal from Hinding Tennis Courts to repair or replace the Watrous Park tennis courts and the Cromwell High School tennis courts. It was decided to reconstruct from scratch only the Watrous Park tennis courts, at an approximate cost of \$812,000. Those funds will come from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Nothing will be done with the CHS tennis courts at all. There will be brand new, from the ground up, tennis courts at Watrous Park.

Police Chief Denise Lamontagne reported on a robbery on January 30, 2022 at the Citgo gas station on Main street. A brisk arrest was made, utilizing the police dog Bane. The perpetrator is a suspect in other robberies in CT and MA, and he was caught.

6. Citizens' Comments:

None

7. Reports:

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Colella had nothing to report at this time.

Library Director -

Staffing: Director Canney's report included an update on staffing: there are lots of new faces. The three latest part-time hires are settling in nicely. The LTA (Library Technical Assistant) position closed on 2/14 and there currently are 14 applicants. Director Canney hopes to have the first round of interviews on 2/23.

Budgets: Director Canney met with the Town Manager on 2/4 and was pleased with the outcome.

Programming: The staff have some amazing programs planned for all ages. We will be hatching chickens in April, courtesy of Farmer Joe's in Wallingford, through a rent-a-chick program. Farmer Joe's will provide everything needed to hatch, feed and raise a chick for two weeks. The chicks will then be given back to Farmer Joe's.

Some of the other programs Director Canney mentioned is that we will once again be partnering with Neighborhood Forest for FREE trees, Take and Makes will be ending and we are leaning for more in-person programming, the Spring newsletter should be ready in the next week or so.

The Whirl-A-Wish has been placed by the circulation desk and is gaining lots of attention and use. Also, we are hoping to be live with the seed library next week. We have been waiting on the catalogs to be painted.

The Belden Room: After numerous conversations, it was decided that an air balancer would be hired to look at both the rooftop units to determine if they are operating efficiently and optimally. Once that has been commissioned, we should know more about possible next steps.

Mask Mandate Lifted: Although masks are not mandatory as of 2/4, Director Canney would guess that 80-90% of our library patrons have still been wearing them.

Tax Forms: The State of CT is not mailing paper forms (they did not last year either). The library has been pre-printing them to have on hand for our patrons. The cost is 60 cents.

A motion was made by Kathy Newton to accept the Library Director's Report, seconded by Megan Blanchette. Motion accepted unanimously.

Finance Report –

A motion was made by Martha Rennie to accept the Finance Report, seconded by Kathy Newton. Motion accepted unanimously.

8. Old Business:

Director Canney mentioned that the sub-committee continues to meet and the next meeting is March 7, 2022

9. New Business:

None

10. Other:

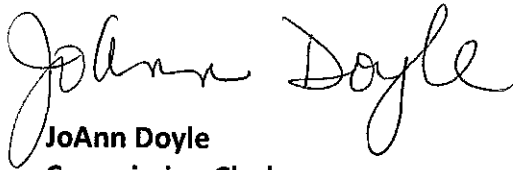
None

11. Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

12. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kathy Newton to adjourn at 7:14 PM; seconded by Megan Blanchette. Motion accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JoAnn Doyle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

**JoAnn Doyle
Commission Clerk**