

MEETING MINUTES
Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2022
At 6:30 PM
The Belden Room

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
May 13, 2022 11:26A
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT *JK*

Present: Martha Rennie, Kathy Newton, Marie Roberto, Megan Blanchette,
Barbara Grotheer, Karen Spotts

Also Present: Library Director Kara Canney, Gerald Seagrave

Absent: Chairman Margaret Colella, Paula Luna

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Barbara Grotheer at 6:35 PM.

2. Approve/Amend Agenda:

A motion was made by Kathy Newton to approve the agenda for Monday, May 9, 2022, seconded by Marth Rennie. *All were in favor; motion passed.*

3. Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2022:

A motion was made by Martha Rennie to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022, seconded by Marie Robert. *All in favor: Martha Rennie, Kathy Newton, Marie Roberto, Megan Blanchette, Barbara Grotheer. Abstained: Karen Spotts. Motion passed.* There were a few corrections, which were reviewed and will be updated. Amended minutes will be filed.

4. Town Council Liaison Comments:

Town Councilor Paula Luna was absent

5. Citizens' Comments:

Gerald Seagrave attended The Connecticut Library Association Conference, which was held for two days and he attended one day. The keynote speaker was Tracie Hall. She started as a Branch Librarian at Albany Avenue Hartford Public Library and is now the Executive Director of the American Library Association. She spoke about information redlining. Mr. Seagrave also went to a workshop on free services from the state for patrons; it was about the Library for the

Blind and Physically Handicapped and the State Education Resource Center of Connecticut, which is in Middletown. The resource center is moving to Waterbury in January. Another workshop Mr. Seagrave attended was a workshop on delivering programs and services to veterans, military members and their families. This featured Christy Billings from the Russell Library Veteran's Writing Group.

"Library Marketing – A Fresh Perspective." The Director of the Bloomfield Public Library spoke about her marketing efforts. They changed the name of the library from Prosser Public Library to the Bloomfield Public Library. The last one attended was "How We Did It, Three Recent Successful Building Referenda Campaigns." This included the directors of the Bloomfield Library, the Southington Library and the Coventry Library about their battles to get referendums and to get things passed and how many times it's failed. We've been there; we know that story.

6. Reports:

Chairman's Report -

Chairman Colella was absent.

Library Director –

Staffing - Our new LTA, Stephanie Upadhyay, has begun and is settling in very nicely. She works Monday evening and stopped in to the meeting this evening to introduce herself to the commission, and the commission introduced themselves to Stephanie. Frances Rosario, LTA, also stopped in the meeting to introduce herself and the commission introduced themselves to Frances.

Rebeca Williams' last day was 5/6/2022. Her position has been posted.

Programs- The chickens brought in SO many people! It was amazing to see people so endeared by them and then happy with the changes the library had gone through. Our door-count really skyrocketed when they were here and we have included these visits as a passive program.

Like last year, the library gave away trees for Earth Day. This year the total was 120.

After being canceled due to Covid 19, it was so nice to have the Passport to Libraries program back at the library. Two ladies came in to have their passport stamped and they had been to ten libraries. One of the women was from Cromwell, but did not live here anymore. She said that we were by far the nicest library out of all of the libraries – not just physically. She said the staff was welcoming, and she loved it!

Upcoming Programs- Summer Reading Kick-Off-June 22 6:30 PM with Downtown 6. We will be registering patrons for our Summer Reading program and collecting t-shirt sizes for this year's Summer Reading shirt. On August 18th, we will be tie dying the t-shirts.

80's night will be August 24 6:30 PM with the band the Future Heavies.

Megan Blanchette asked if a book would be given out with the t-shirts. Director Canney mentioned that for this year, the books would be used instead for the kids' book club, or a family read-along.

Director Canney hopes to have copies of the entire newsletter for the commission to preview.

Community Foundation of Middlesex County – Director Canney attended a Zoom celebration showcasing the libraries and the Peach Pit Foundation.

Also, had a conversation with Thayer about advertising donation opportunities via the CFMC.

Donations - Director Canney received correspondence from Kearns & Kearns, PC letting us know that Marilyn J. McGuire had left the library in her will. Director Canney said that it is money specifically for books.

Children's Garden-The Bee Happy Children's Garden will be taken over by the library and Director Canney will provide more information at our meeting. Director Canney mentioned that the garden is attached to the Community Garden. There are pavers, there is a pavilion, and fourteen raised beds; which were just built and installed. There are plans for each and every bed. There will be programs held at the garden, also.

Director Canney talked about the seed packets. In March, the Library gave out 666 seed packets, which included 99 patrons. Martha Rennie mentioned that she read an article about how seed libraries are becoming a very big thing across the country. Director Canney said that seed libraries are not new, but they are becoming very popular and the seed library is very popular here.

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 mentioned that there is \$527 left in the materials budget and there are some purchase orders that need to be closed out. There were meetings with Emma and Emily to make sure they spend whatever it is they have left, if not – close it out and give it to someone else to spend. Their budgets are divided up fairly equally at the beginning of the year.

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

7. Old Business:

We received the air balancing report and had a conversation with Marty Cashin, the engineer at Silver Petrucelli. He saw that the rooftop unit that runs one side of the building is not performing correctly. What is happening is that the air that is coming out when it is cooling, should be between 55 and 58 degrees. Because it is only getting up to 46 degrees, it is causing condensation and the rain clouds. We need to have the unit up top, that is not working properly, fixed. Building Maintenance has called our service contract people, and passed along an email written by Jon Harriman and the mechanical engineer, stating that before the person who is supposed to service that rooftop unit does anything, they need to call Marty Cashin at Silver Petrucelli, so that he can explain exactly what needs to happen; then it should be fixed. There is a service call out.

8. New Business:

None

9. Other:

Barbara Grotheer mentioned the commission elections.

Marie Roberto talked about wanting to know the terms and who is up for election or not. Director Canney will check the list of Boards and Commissions and get back to the commission. Prior to the next meeting, the information will be provided.

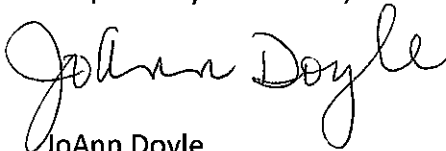
10. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is Monday, June 13, 2022.

11. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Marie Roberto to adjourn at 7:20 PM, seconded by Martha Rennie. *All were in favor; motion passed.*

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.

JoAnn Doyle

Recording Secretary