


**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Cromwell Library Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, January 9, 2023**  
**At 6:30 PM**  
**The Maselli Room**

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

**Also Present:** Library Director Kara Canney, Gerald Seagrave

**Absent:** Town Council Liaison Paula Luna

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
Jan 13, 2023 09:45A  
JoAnn Doyle  
TOWN CLERK  
CROMWELL, CT 

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman K. Newton at 6:35 PM.

**2. Approve/Amend Agenda:**

A motion was made by M. Roberto to approve the agenda for Monday, January 9, 2023, seconded by B. Grotheer. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**3. Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2022:**

A motion was made by B. Grotheer to approve the minutes of October 17, 2022, seconded by M. Rennie. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2022:**

There were a few corrections, which will be updated. A motion was made by M. Roberto to accept the amended minutes, seconded by B. Grotheer.

**4. Town Council Liaison Comments:**

None. Town Councilor Paula Luna was absent.

**5. Citizens' Comments:**

Mr. Seagrave reported that The Connecticut Library Association met November 17<sup>th</sup>. The East Hartford Public Library is opening a branch library with grant money, which is supposed to open this month. "Take Your Child to the Library Day" will be in February. There was another Connecticut Library Association meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Kate Byroade, Director of the Cragin Library in Colchester, is the new American Library Association representative for Connecticut.

## **6. Reports:**

### **Chairman's Report –**

Chairman K. Newton announced that Karen Spotts is resigning from the Commission and Megan Blanchette is also resigning. There are two spots open, so we should look for people to fill the openings. There was some discussion about minority representation in filling the Commission openings, and knowing the role of the Commission.

### **Library Director –**

Director Canney talked about "Take Your Child to the Library Day", which is a national initiative that started here in Connecticut. Emily has partnered with Tall Man's Ice Cream because it is also national "Ice Cream for Breakfast Day". We are going to be handing out ice cream first thing Saturday morning to the first 100 people that come in. This will be on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Elizabeth Wallace, an author and artist from Branford, CT, created the logo for the event.

**Staffing:** Still short staffed and looking to fill two part time library assistant positions.

**Collection Development:** Youth Services Librarian, Emily Mills will be adding additional manga titles after having a suggestion box in the YA area. Manga is a high circulating sub-section of the YA collection.

**Outreach/Partnerships:** The library is in talks with Transfer Station to collaborate with the Blue Earth Initiative (food scrap recycling initiative). Director Canney also mentioned the possibility of coordinating with the Recreation Department to place the blue food scrap recycling bins at their events (the Farmer's Market, concerts, etc.). We are sending out a survey to see if there is community interest.

**Programming:** The library will be continuing the tradition of keeping the library open for students studying for exams. We offer pizza, study breaks with stress relievers and a place for students to work collaboratively or quietly. The extra hour will be on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Snow Sisters (75 people in attendance) and Noon Year's Eve (65 people in attendance) were very well received.

Subscribe to our quarterly newsletter to receive information about all of our programming. The link is on our web page.

**Other:** The green house had to undergo some repairs after the wind pushed a panel out. Building Maintenance secured the panel and reinforced the area. We will be starting seeds for spring plants in February, some in March, depending on the weather. We will pick some dates for the initial planting in May.

**Statistics:** Circulation figures are looking good; about the same as last year. M. Roberto commented on being impressed with the programming and that there was a tremendous jump. Director Canney said that a lot of that had to do with all of the big special children's/juvenile events that happened. There was also discussion about the volunteer count. Emily runs a teen volunteer program and has a core group of students that attend.

#### **Finance Report –**

Director Canney said there is money in departmental expenses and has asked staff to spend it down to zero. There is a lot of collection development; buying the popular titles and building the collections. We spend most of the program subsidies in the summer.

The Whirl-a-Wish money will be used to fund the garden.

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

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

Director Canney received a second quote about fans for the Belden Room. The quote, by Lighthouse, was quite a bit less than the \$3,000 per fan, but because of the purchasing policy, we will most likely have to get at least one more quote.

Director Canney received an email from Ken Eldridge, Chief Mechanical Engineer with Silver Petrucelli and she did not like his response because she has been asking for things for a long time. They will have to schedule something in the spring to address this. M. Rennie asked about the A/C units on the roof because there have been flooding issues at other libraries. Director Canney said that she hasn't seen any issues.

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

Director Canney mentioned that the Town Climate and Culture study was postponed today and will be held tomorrow instead, at the same times.

Director Canney thanked the Town Clerk's Office for all of their help in accessing historical minutes for a project for the Town Manager.

**9. Other:**

None

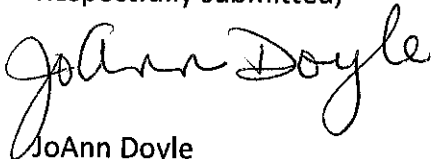
**10. Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting date is Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**11. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by B. Grotheer to adjourn at 7:19 PM, seconded by M. Rennie. *All 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 and title.

JoAnn Doyle

Recording Secretary