

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Cromwell Library Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 11, 2023**  
**At 6:30 PM**  
**The Arch Room**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
Sep 18, 2023 03:30P  
JoAnn Doyle  
TOWN CLERK  
CROMWELL, CT

**Present:** Chairman Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Marie Roberto,  
Barbara Grotheer (joined meeting at 6:40 p.m.)

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

**Absent:** Margaret Colella

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman K. Newton at 6:34 p.m.

**2. Approve/Amend Agenda:**

A motion was made by M. Roberto to approve the agenda for Monday, September 11, 2023, seconded by M. Rennie. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**3. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2023:**

A motion was made by M. Roberto to approve the amended minutes of July 10, 2023, seconded by M. Rennie. *All in favor; motion passed.*

**4. Town Council Liaison Comments:**

Councilwoman P. Luna mentioned that the Farmer's Market was extended one more week.

There was a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony this morning at Riverport Park. There was some discussion regarding the fact that the ceremony was not publicized and talk about other ways citizens can be notified of events, elections, etc. Councilwoman Luna said that she will bring it to the attention of the Town Council, at the next meeting, that there needs to be more information put out about the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony.

The School Building Committee is on target to break ground in January. The sidewalks are being installed. The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Plan of Conservation and Development update Open House on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from

6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the Belden Room. It was discussed by the Library Commission that the results of this study should be publicized.

## **5. Citizens' Comments:**

G. Seagrave stated that in July, the Pearle Crawford Library of Dudley, Massachusetts, was having major problems with their budget and they were going to close the library. They met on 7/24 and set a referendum for August. A question regarding the Town of Dudley, MA being allowed to assess an additional \$297,000 in real estate personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Pearle Crawford Library, passed.

The Douglas Library in Hebron is introducing their new Library Director, Drusilla Carter.

## **6. Reports:**

### **Chairman's Report –**

Chairman K. Newton was very impressed by a letter and logo sent out by the *Friends of the Library*. The letter was sent to lifetime members.

### **Library Director –**

**Staffing:** Director Canney stated that the library is mostly staffed. One staff member is working part-time, three days a week, and will be back full-time in October.

**Grants:** The library received the grant from the Janvrin Fund of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County in the amount of \$14,854.00 to foster the food scrap recycling initiative.

**Programming:** The fall newsletter is out. Lifetime Arts sent us three artists and Director Canney is trying to find an artist for Monday evenings and to try to have seven weeks of dance, beginning on 10/17; and then a recital.

**Statistics:** Director Canney stated that the summer reading numbers were great! Staff did an amazing job and 71 more patrons than last year completed their summer reading challenge, leading to 184 names printed onto the t-shirts.

**Upcoming Collaborations:** We are moving forward on food scrap recycling, Trick or Trunk and the Mayor's Tree Lighting. A bunch of fun giveaways for the schools were ordered for the food scrap recycling program. We are waiting for the bins to come in, which should be a week or two.

**Meet the Candidates:** The library will host all Town Council and Mayoral candidates on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Belden Room.

**Strategic Plan:** The sub-committee consists of Director Canney, Emma, Emily, Karlyn and Martha. The first meeting will be at 1 p.m. at the Berlin Peck Memorial Library on 9/13.

**Intellectual Freedom for Library Boards:** Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom, Samantha Lee from the Connecticut Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee discusses what boards should do to support their libraries/library staff and addresses concerning trends/cautionary tales.

**Finance Report –**

Money is encumbered and put aside for specific things.

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

**7. Old Business:**

Director Canney stated that the ceiling fans in the Belden Room didn't do anything. The settings were changed to cool the room fast, but were not running long enough to remove the humidity. There are humidity sensors in place. Now there is a flickering light situation and an electrician is coming back to take a look at it.

**8. New Business:**

Director Canney mentioned an article in the *CT Insider*, written by Ken Dixon, titled "Is CT State Library failing to keep track of millions of dollars in books, art and artifacts?"

**9. Other:**

None

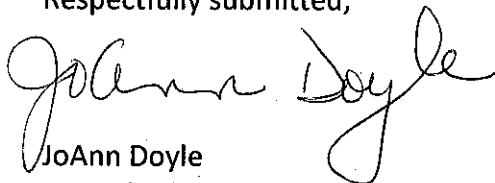
**10. Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting date is Monday, October 16, 2023.

**11. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by M. Rennie to adjourn at 7:30 p.m., seconded by B. Grotheer. *All in favor; motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
JoAnn Doyle  
Recording Secretary