

## Minutes of Kent Memorial Library Commission

June 13, 2022

Kent Memorial Library

The meeting was opened by Chair Austin Roberts at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** *Commission Members:* Corbin Adzigirey (by phone), Michael Alexopoulos, Sam Coatti, Becki Fuller, Joe Grimard, Claire Kawalec, Austin Roberts, Despina Tartsinis and Bob White

*Library Staff:* Jackie Hemond and Pinki Shah

Board of Selectmen Representative: Jerry Mahoney

**Public Participation:** Pinki Shah recommended to the Library Commission that we become a Fine Free Library. The library would still collect monies for damaged and lost items, as well as copies. Pinki has done extensive research on this. She believes that if people do not come in and pay their fines, for whatever reason, we risk losing them as patrons, which would be a greater loss. Jackie Hemond has a list of many other Connecticut Libraries that have become Fine Free. Despina Tartsinis said there is no policy outlined for fines and Bob White thought that the Library Director was the one to make this decision. There was support for this, but Pinki was asked to do some more research to see if Fine Free Libraries had an increase in circulation and patrons. Fines are in the town budget and Jerry Mahoney requested to look back for 15 years to see how much was collected in fines. (Fines were not collected during the pandemic.) Pinki will get back to the Commission.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

#### Minutes of April 12, 2022

MOTION: It was MOVED by Bob White, SECONDED by Joe Grimard, to approve these minutes with the following corrections:

Under New Business, Item a, 5<sup>th</sup> line – it should be “thought” rather than “though”

Under New Business, Item a, second paragraph, 4th line – it should be “not” rather than “no”

Under New Business, Item a, under Committees, in the Long Range Planning line, it should be “(Chair) not (Chai)

VOTED and PASSED unanimously.

#### Minutes of April 26, 2022

MOTION: It was MOVED by Bob White, SECONDED by Sam Coatti, to approve these minutes as presented. VOTED and PASSED unanimously.

**Communications:** None

**Report of the Director** – Jackie Hemond referred to the written report that she had emailed out to the Commission members and asked if there were any questions, which there were not.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Policy and Redline Discussion – Despina spoke about the redline revisions that she emailed to Commission members prior to this meeting. Jerry Mahoney noted that one of the sub heads was “Rules and Regulations.” He suggested making it “Regulations of KML Bylaws” instead. Bob White made note of the following: Under #8, where it is called “Committees,” it should be “Subcommittees” and under #12, it should be “Library Director” rather than “Director.” Bob noted that the attachment describing Library Committee Assignments was not included. Despina had reported that she did not have that and had asked if anyone on the Commission did. Bob White said he had those descriptions on his computer and would email them to Commission members. Jerry Mahoney asked whether the Chair of the Commission, who is ex-officio on subcommittees, had a vote. Despina explained that the subcommittees did not

take votes, but rather brought any items to the full Commission for action. The Policy Committee will meet before the September Commission and send out the final edition of the Policies and Bylaws to be voted on at that meeting.

**Old Business:**

At a previous meeting, Sue Irwin, suggested having Public Participation be both at the beginning and the end of the meeting to cover whatever might come up during the meetings. The Commission thought this was appropriate and Michael Alexopoulos recommended limiting the time one could speak at the beginning to five minutes and one minute at the end. Jerry Mahoney recommended and it was agreed that we change Public Participation to Public Comment to be consistent with the other town Commissions.

**New Business:**

Library Director Search Committee: Austin Roberts reported that, with the increase in salary, they received six applications and four of those meet the qualifications. The process is moving forward. All four candidates are from Connecticut.

Michael Alexopoulos thanked Jackie Hemond for all she is doing in her Interim Director position and making things run as smoothly as possible

Austin Roberts suggested that the Commission update the descriptions of what each standing Committee does after we receive the present copy from Bob White

Building and Grounds – Bob White reported that this subcommittee had not met recently, but he had reviewed the spreadsheets of needs over the last fifteen years. He has narrowed it down to fifteen items and would like to meet with the staff to prioritize the list. Jackie recommended that Chris Matejek, the town's facilities manager, be a part of this discussion because he had an ongoing list also.

Sam Coatti expressed appreciation for the display in honor of Mary Ann Zak which was well received and appreciated by her family.

Claire Kawalec reported that the Suffield Library Foundation had recently met and approved purchasing a computer and scanner. More information will be coming about a fund drive for the Foundation.

Jackie report that the Zak grant that we received for the Historical Room was not used because of the renovations and the pandemic. The Zak grant, through Hartford Foundation, allowed the library to keep the monies for use in the Historical Room and Jackie recommended it be used for scanning microfilm to digitize that material.

The **Next Meeting** will be Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Kent Memorial Library.

Joe Grimard MOVED and Sam Coatti SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. VOTED and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Fuller (Secretary)

Edited by Austin Roberts (Chair)