

Minutes of Kent Memorial Library Commission

January 10, 2023

Kent Memorial Library

The meeting was opened by Chair Austin Roberts at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call: *Commission Members:* Corbin Adzigirey, Michael Alexopoulos, Eliza Childs, Sam Coatti, Becki Fuller, Joe Grimard, Claire Kawalec, Austin Roberts, Christine Sinopoli, Despina Tartsinis and Bob White. *Library Director:* Julie Styles.

Board of Selectmen Representative: Jerry Mahoney

Guests: Members of Friends of the Library and KML Staff

Public Participation: None

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: It was MOVED by Bob White, SECONDED BY Joe Grimard, to approve the November 8, 2022 minutes. VOTED and PASSED unanimously.

MOTION: It was MOVED by Bob White, SECONDED BY Claire Kawalec, to approve the December 13, 2022 minutes. VOTED and PASSED – 6 yes; 5 abstained due to not attending the meeting.

Communications: Julie Styles passed on a check and probate information to Claire Kawalec to handle.

Report of the Director – Julie Styles

1. The Suffield Alight event was fun and Julie showed appreciation to Eliza Childs and Amy Healy, who read stories at it.
2. There have been no major issues with teenagers in the library, although they continue to hang out. Julie is trying to find a way to give them space. She will keep the Commission updated.
3. The new shelves for the Friends books for sale have been installed.
4. She is beginning to work on the budget.
5. Julie is working with Becky Osleger from IT on possible filtering software.
6. The Polar Express was a great success. Bill Irwin has taken over the role of Train Conductor from Lester Smith and Bob and Kerry White continue to be Santa and his helper.
7. Julie expressed gratitude to Amy Healy and her family for doing another Chanukah program this year.
8. Jerry Mahoney reported that Julie had given a nice presentation to the Board of Selectmen. They are working on getting heads of departments to meet with the Selectmen.

Policy on Book Displays: Austin Roberts reported that a complaint had been brought to Colin Moll, our First Selectmen, regarding a book display. Colin had contacted Austin and inquired about a policy to deal with this type of situation. The Personnel Committee had developed a form for a person to fill out a complaint requesting removal of a book from the shelves, which would be given to the Library Director and Chair of the Commission to handle. He felt this could be adapted and used for book displays as well. Following discussion, it was agreed that Austin will edit the policy and present it at the next meeting. It was felt that policies can help clear up questions.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Relations: Sam Coatti reported on the successful Open House held on December 10th to introduce Julie Styles as the new Director of the Library. This committee worked with people from the Friends and the Foundation. They would next like to plan an internal social for staff, Friends, the Commission and the Foundation.

Personnel: Bob White, Chair, held a meeting to work on the January evaluation of the Library Director and how it should be done. Bob White wants to make sure all members on this committee are active.

Finance: Claire Kawalec reported that they are working with SKY Investments to get Julie the information she needs for the budget.

Building and Grounds: Bob White asked Julie about a problem with her office door, but she said it was not major and she was fine with it.

Election of Officers: The present officers are: Chair – Austin Roberts; Vice Chair - Eliza Childs; Secretary – Becki Fuller; and Treasurer – Claire Kawalec. These officers are willing to serve again in 2023 and there were no volunteers from the floor. MOTION: It was MOVED by Joe Grimard, SECONDED BY Despina Tartsinis, to approve the above officers remain the same in 2023. VOTED and PASSED unanimously. Bob White thanked the officers for the job they did in 2022.

Election of Subcommittees: Austin Roberts asked if everyone wanted to remain a part of the subcommittee on which they serve. There were a few requested which are noted in the motion. It was MOVED by Corbin Adzigirey, SECONDED by Eliza Childs to have the same subcommittees with the following changes: Christine Sinopoli would like leave Personnel and join Finance and remain on Policy; Corbin Adzigirey would like to come off Finance. VOTED and PASSED unanimously

New Business: Austin reported that according to Roberts Rules of Orders, if an item is not on the agenda, a motion must be made during the meeting to add that subject matter. A request can be made prior to a meeting to have an item on the agenda.

Public Comment: None

The **Next Meeting** will be Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Kent Memorial Library.

Austin Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Fuller (Secretary)

Edited by Austin Roberts (Chair)