

Minutes of Kent Memorial Library Commission

April 11, 2023

Kent Memorial Library

Chair, Austin Roberts, opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call: *Commission Members:* Corbin Adzigirey, Eliza Childs, Sam Coatti, Becki Fuller, Claire Kawalec, Michelle Kynard, Austin Roberts, Christine Sinopoli, Despina Tartsinis, and Bob White.

Library Staff: Julie Styles.

Board of Selectmen Representative: Gerry Mahoney.

Public Participation: None

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of March 22, 2023:

MOTION: It was MOVED by Sam Coatti, SECONDED BY Corbin Adzigirey, to approve the March 22, 2023 minutes with the following corrections:

1. The next meeting is on April 11, 2023, not May 9, 2023.
2. The following had been left out of a statement by Jerry Mahoney: he summarized the book removed from display, noted that parents were absent in the book, and voiced his opinion that, legally, the library collection must be neutral and unbiased.
3. Under Patron Concerns, paragraph 4, line 3, remove one "that."

VOTED and PASSED unanimously.

Suffield Library Foundation presentation by Mel Chafetz, chair of the Suffield Library Foundation,

Mel explained that the foundation was formed as a direct result of the 2006 or 2007 discussion of a new library building. Donors were concerned that money given to the commission or town would be used for other means, so a 501c3 was formed to allow donors to give to specific library projects.

The Foundation has funded many projects at the library (through donors), such as 1.1 million to offset town expenses on library renovations. It has hosted programs like speakers like Steve Kats and Greg Buttler. And is presently considering raising funds to upgrade the atrium and the historical room.

Cynthia Sinopoli asked how people became members of the Foundation. Mel spoke about seeking people in finance and fundraising.

Jerry Mahoney inquired how the goals and accomplishments are memorialized and how the public knows for what the money is being used. Mel said that previous projects are mentioned in fundraising letters.

The Foundation also receives requests from the Library Director about projects the town approves but won't finance.

Austin Roberts thanked Mel for all the work he and the foundation do and their incredible support of the library and its patrons.

Communications: Items Julie received this month were given to Austin Roberts, Chair, and Claire Kawalec, Treasurer, to handle.

Report of the Director – Julie Styles

1. Circulation and Program numbers are going up.
2. Chris Matejek is contacting Bill's Landscaping for a detailed proposal for the atrium.
3. The Tamar Witness Stone Dedication went well.
4. Upcoming programs include; Tech Time with Hunter, "Meet the Artist" Reception with Olivia Ballinger, and a Yarn and Craft Exchange. All programs are on the library's website.

Standing Committee Reports: No reports. Austin Roberts will send new member, Michelle Kynard, a list of committees for her to choose where she would like to serve.

New Business: None.

Public Participation: Kathy Bielonka suggested that Mel Chafetz be asked to write an article for the Suffield Observer about projects the Library Foundation has done. It was agreed that was a good idea. She also spoke on her support of Colin Moll's handling of the book display.

The **Next Meeting** will be Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Kent Memorial Library.

Austin Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Fuller (Secretary)

Edited by Austin Roberts (Chair)