



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 6, 2023**

7:00 P.M.

**Town Hall Meeting Room, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting**

Selectmen present: Colin Moll, Mel Chafetz, Kathleen Harrington, Pete Hill and Jerry Mahoney

Also present via Zoom or in person: Bill Hawkins - Director of Planning & Development and Engineering Liaison

First Selectman Moll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Moll thanked all for coming and noted that due to the large number of attendees this evening he would be limiting the public comment portion of the meeting to two minutes per speaker. He asked all speakers to identify themselves with their name and address and directed the selectmen to refrain from comment.

Public Comment

Neil Hornish, 864 Thrall Avenue – Mr. Hornish noted that he was also speaking on behalf of his wife, Annie Hornish, who was attending via Zoom. The Hornish's urged the selectmen to reappoint all current members of the Kent Memorial Library Commission who wished to continue serving for an additional term.

Eric Harrington, 700 North Street – Mr. Harrington suggested that the Library Director's job description be revised in order to remove the requirement that states the applicant must have a degree from an ALA (American Library Association) Accredited College. Mr. Harrington described the ALA as a special interest group, led by a Marxist, who believes that children should be exposed to all types of materials, including pornography. In his opinion, the new Library Director needs to be a strong manager who recognizes it is the people's library, enforces the chain of command and can keep their personal politics out of library operations. He also expressed concern over library employees being involved in the interview process for their own director. He discussed a need for stronger programming that would appeal to all residents and referred to changes made to the Parks and Recreation department and its commission a few years back. At the time, the Parks and Recreation Director and commission members were interested in keeping the status quo; changes were made to the department and the commission as a result. Those changes, in his opinion, have allowed for a thriving Parks and Recreation department with a wide array of programming options today. He spoke of the recent election results, what message they send and his hope for change on the commission.

Sandra Janik, 380 Prospect Street – Ms. Janik offered her support for all current Kent Memorial Library Commission members and urged the board to reappoint them this evening. She feels these members, both individually and collectively, have done an excellent job serving our community and our library.

Tess McCool, 10 Sutula Road – Ms. McCool spoke about the open seats on the Kent Memorial Library Commission. Her hope is that the board will appoint candidates who value the role of libraries and librarians as the cornerstone of their community and as defenders of intellectual freedom and first

amendment rights. She urged the board to reappoint Austin Roberts, Michael Alexopoulos, Muriel Coatti, Elizabeth Childs, Robert White and Rebecca Fuller should they wish to be considered.

Fred Sweitzer, 165 South Stone Street – Mr. Sweitzer echoed Ms. McCool’s sentiments, as well as others, with regard to reappointing Kent Memorial Library Commission members who wish to continue to serve. Based on his observations, they are all doing a good job. He encouraged those in attendance this evening to do their own homework regarding the ALA, and to draw their own conclusions as to what it is and what it does. He also noted that it would be beneficial to him, as well as all town residents, to be able to hear what qualifications the recommended candidates bring to the table.

Kathy Bielonko, 981 East Street North – Ms. Bielonko hopes the board will select a good group of people to serve on the Kent Memorial Library Commission; a group who want what is best for the entire town and are not one-sided in either direction. She is confident that this will be achieved.

Dr. Kristina Hallett, 1211 Newgate Road – Dr. Hallett respectfully asked that there be strong consideration given to the reappointment of current members of the Kent Memorial Library Commission who wish to continue serving. She also wanted to second Mr. Sweitzer’s comments regarding the ALA.

Discussion and Approval of the minutes from the November 15, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington motioned to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with three changes as presented:

- 1) Page 5 – Under the DPW Usage Policy where it states Selectman Harrington made a “friendly amendment motion”, the word “motion” should be deleted.
- 2) Page 5 – Under the Landfill Policy in the first sentence, the word “selectman” should be changed to “selectmen.”
- 3) Page 6 – Under Compost Rollout a spelling correction needs to be made to read “Kelly Giannuzi.”

Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to accept Elaine Drive of the Breezy Way Farm FRD Residential Subdivision as a public road

Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning and Development, referenced a memo he had provided to the board with detailed information on the Breezy Way Farm FRD Resident Subdivision and gave a brief overview of the process for accepting a new road.

Selectman Harrington motioned to accept Elaine Drive of the Breezy Way Farm FRD Residential Subdivision as a public road. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Blight Ordinance

First Selectman Moll explained that this topic will continue to be placed on the agenda in order to further the discussion and provide the selectmen, as well as residents, the opportunity to recommend revisions. He noted that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting, **Selectman Harrington** expressed that she would like to see Section 3, Item 7C removed. The section reads as follows: *“Property maintenance violations shall also include situations in which the overall condition or the premises causes an unreasonable impact on the enjoyment of or value of neighboring properties as expressed by complaints from adjoining*

and nearby property owners.” **First Selectman Moll** said that after further consideration, he thinks that the wording seems too subjective and broad and asked for thoughts from the rest of the board. The selectmen provided their thoughts on the language and discussed the policy in general. **Selectman Chafetz** said he had received a call from a resident who was concerned as to whether or not the ordinance would apply to homes and structures that are located within the Historic District. He also emphasized his continued desire to bring the Blight Ordinance to a Public Hearing in order to educate the community and gather their input. **First Selectman Moll** introduced comments on the Blight Ordinance submitted via e-mail by resident Dave Gauthier. Mr. Gauthier’s comments were briefly discussed and it was decided that the best course of action would be to consult with the Town Attorney on the subject matter. **Selectman Harrington** and **Selectman Hill** supported **Selectman Chafetz’s** suggestion to hold a Public Hearing.

Discussion and approval to transfer \$32,211.72 from capital line item “Babb’s Beach Water Line” to new capital line item “Babb’s Pavilion Project” to complete a structural engineering and environmental study and refer to Board of Finance

First Selectman Moll provided a brief overview of the transfer request for the board.

Selectman Mahoney motioned to approve the transfer of \$32,211.72 from capital line item “Babb’s Beach Water Line” to new capital line item “Babb’s Pavilion Project” to complete a structural engineering and environmental study and refer to Board of Finance. **Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Call Town Meeting for December 13, 2023 to consider and act upon an Animal Control ordinance as approved by the Board of Selectmen and to consider and act upon changes to the TIF Master Plan as approved by the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Mahoney read the following Legal Notice:

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Notice is hereby given that a Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut, qualified to vote in Town Meeting, will be held at the Auditorium in Suffield Middle School, 350 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT on Wednesday, **December 13, 2023** at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes to wit:

1. To consider and act upon an Animal Control ordinance as approved by the Board of Selectmen.
2. To consider and act upon changes to the TIF Master Plan as approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Copies of supporting materials may be found on the Town website at www.suffieldct.gov or by visiting the Town Clerk’s Office, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT.

Dated at Suffield, Connecticut this 6th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Colin Moll, First Selectman
Mel Chafetz, Selectman
Kathleen Harrington, Selectman
Peter Hill, Selectman
Jeremiah Mahoney, Selectman

Selectman Harrington motioned to call a Town Meeting for December 13, 2023 to consider and act upon an Animal Control ordinance as approved by the Board of Selectmen and to consider and act upon changes to the TIF Master Plan as approved by the Board of Selectmen. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of appointments to the Kent Memorial Library Commission

First Selectman Moll opened the conversation by mentioning that all selectman had been forwarded the resumes of the RTC endorsed candidates selected for consideration. He also named the current commission members up for reappointment as Sam Coatti, Michael Alexopoulos, Bob White, Eliza Childs and Rebecca Fuller. A sixth member, Austin Roberts, chose not to seek reappointment. He also provided the names of all individuals who had expressed interest in joining the commission.

Selectman Chafetz asked why the “rules” had changed with regard to the reappointment process. He described the process that was followed two years ago when there were three members of the Kent Memorial Library Commission up for reappointment and questioned the recent interviewing of potential and current candidates by **First Selectman Moll**. He pointed out that holding interviews had never been done before. **Selectman Chafetz** expressed concern with the interview process, stating that the board had never discussed it and he and **Selectman Hill** had no knowledge that it would be occurring. **Selectman Chafetz** was under the assumption that the board would be moving forward with reappointments. He felt that this process was not transparent and gave the Republicans an opportunity to present candidates for consideration while the Democrats did not receive the same courtesy. He reiterated his concern with the rules being changed and said it seemed as though this action stems from a desire to change the balance of the library commission, which may be the only commission in town with more Democrats than Republicans. He continued to question the rationale behind the rule change and asked if every candidate looking for reappointment in the future, regardless of commission, would be interviewed. **First Selectman Moll** said he might consider it, as he felt it was a great way to get to know people.

First Selectman Moll challenged **Selectman Chafetz** on the “rules” he had been referencing and asked him to explain. **Selectman Chafetz** said he he was referring to past practice. **Selectman Mahoney** asked **Selectman Chafetz** what sort of past practice leaves the Board of Selectmen with no discretion and states that the Board of Selectmen must reappoint members of a commission even if a majority of the board feels that there needs to be change and there are individuals willing to serve. He suggested that perhaps there has been past practice that included reappointment if no other individuals were interested in serving, but there is no evidence of obligation to reappoint. **Selectman Mahoney** also argued there have been no prior situations where the Board of Selectmen wanted change on a commission, had people willing to serve, and decided to reappoint despite the desire for change. **Selectman Chafetz** said he was unaware of any other commission members who have been up for reappointment that were not automatically reappointed, with the exception of the Kent Memorial Library Commission. **Selectman Harrington** provided an example for **Selectman Chafetz** that had involved a motion made by her to reappoint an

individual to a specific commission and the board voted against the motion and chose to install a new individual instead.

Selectman Chafetz continued to argue that the Democrats were not offered the opportunity to put candidates up for consideration and that the process of asking a party to go out and seek individuals for reappointments was completely new to him. **First Selectman Moll** produced dates and emails that reflected communication between the Chairs of both the RTC and the DTC. The DTC Chair chose to support the candidates up for reappointment and did not put forward any additional candidates. **Selectman Chafetz** asked the Republican board members why they were so adamant about changing the library commission and alluded to the choice being political.

Selectman Harrington explained that, for her, it has nothing to do with politics and she has no interest in what initial is at the end of anybody's name who is currently serving or is up for consideration. She takes no pleasure in doing this tonight, but she is hopeful that this action will result in a drastic change for the library commission. She stated for the record that if Austin Roberts, a Republican, were seeking re-election she would not vote for him, despite being one of the only Republicans currently serving on the commission. **Selectman Harrington** went on to describe her personal experiences while she was a member of the Kent Memorial Library Commission between the Fall of 2014 and the Fall of 2019, including her observations involving what appeared to be a turf war mentality. She also shared a very detailed and personal account of an incident in which a library employee accused her, **Selectman Mahoney** and former First Selectwoman Mack, of racial bias. The employee had taken it upon herself to forward an email to all library employees claiming it was rife with racial bias. The Library Director and library commission supported the employee's actions. **Selectman Harrington** expressed further concerns with the way in which New Business is handled by the commission during their meetings, the poor treatment new members receive at the hands of existing members and the way in which the commission treats the library as if it is their own. **Selectman Harrington** agreed with **Selectman Chafetz** with regard to his observation that the library commission was being treated differently than other commissions, but explained that no other commission has behaved in the manner that this commission has or treated their commission like their personal fiefdom.

Selectman Mahoney echoed **Selectman Harrington's** comments on the turf war mentality and said it has been that way for a long time; noting that this behavior is nothing new and started long before **First Selectman Moll** came into office. He reminded the board that former **First Selectwoman Mack** was accused by the library employees, and the library commission, of engaging in "intimidation tactics" to force a Library Director to leave. He pointed out that that the library is a Town facility where town employees work and the town is responsible for that facility and the employees and legal liability for the conduct of said employees. He provided another example involving a visit **First Selectman Moll** made to the library in an effort to provide oversight after the most recent Library Director had resigned. **First Selectman Moll** was later told that his visit made employees uncomfortable and he was unqualified to be there. **Selectman Mahoney** discussed additional concerns and provided commentary on the commission make-up over the last fourteen years. His main concern right now is the conduct of the current commission.

First Selectman Moll asked **Selectman Chafetz** to provide examples of the commission's accomplishments over the last 4 years. **Selectman Chafetz** pointed to the move from the temporary location at Ff Tyler Place, the coordination of the move back to Kent Memorial Library, navigating COVID and programming. **First Selectman Moll** questioned whether these were truly accomplishments of the commission. Discussion continued with the same questions being asked about the commission being treated differently, the lack of knowledge about candidate interviews, the rules of the appointment process being changed and political motives. **Selectman Hill** reiterated that he and **Selectman Chafetz** knew nothing about candidate interviews. He inquired as to who held the interviews, who was in attendance,

whether the candidates were asked the same questions and if notes were taken. **First Selectman Moll** answered these questions accordingly. **First Selectman Moll** asked **Selectman Hill** what was stopping him from holding his own interviews of the candidates. **Selectman Hill** agreed he could do this, however, he just felt there were much bigger issues in town for the First Selectman to be worrying about than interviewing people for the library commission. **First Selectman Moll** defended the interviews by saying he did it because he feels there is a large problem at the library. **Selectman Hill** said it seems as though **First Selectman Moll** has honed in on the library commission and suggested that if this type of action was taken with all commissions it would not seem odd, but it appeared to be overreach when the only interviews were for library commission members which had never been done before. **Selectman Hill** acknowledged that he and **Selectman Chafetz** would want reappointments while the remaining three selectmen want new commission members. He pointed out that he does not like when **Selectman Mahoney, Selectman Harrington and First Selectman Moll** say there are no politics in the decisions being made and that they want the best person for the job, as their actions do not reflect this. He used an example of an individual who first came up for consideration on the library commission two years ago and was denied. When another position opened up this individual was once again brought up for consideration and was denied again despite being the best candidate for the position. **Selectman Hill** believes that this person was denied because they were a Democrat, which he feels is wrong.

Selectman Harrington responded by saying that she did not deny this individual based on the "D," but rather because he would be the exact same as the commission members that she has had issues with already. **Selectman Hill** asked how she could possibly know the way this individual would react when they were not even on the commission. She explained that the library commission held an illegal special meeting with an agenda item describing a discussion relating to personnel. This meeting was held for the sole purpose of interviewing candidates for the commission. Commission members are not considered to be personnel. Ultimately, the commission endorsed this individual, which indicates an alignment with the actions of the commission she already has issue with. **Selectman Harrington** asked **Selectman Hill** to stop assuming it is a matter of party affiliation.

Selectman Mahoney motioned to appoint **Klaire Bielonko, Denise Boutin, Cameron Lisk, Nina Kendrick, Les Webb** and to reappoint **Michael Alexopoulos** as members of the **Kent Memorial Library Commission through November 30, 2027.**

Selectman Chafetz asked to interview the candidates prior to voting. **First Selectman Moll** said that would not be done and the two continued to debate the subject. **Selectman Chafetz** argued he had not had an opportunity to interview any of the candidates as he was expecting reappointments. Discussion continued with regard to the issues that currently exist at the library and the long history of tension between the library and the Town; most notably the First Selectman's office. **First Selectman Moll** noted that he is not the only First Selectman to have experienced issues with the library. There has been a history of poor behavior when the library does not get what they want. The behavior usually includes an attempt to destroy the First Selectman and mainly stems from issues involving power struggles and money. **Selectman Hill** wanted to note for the record that seven people spoke during public comment tonight and six of them were in favor of reappointment. He added that the selectmen also received a few dozen emails that also requested reappointment of current library commission members. **Selectman Harrington** acknowledged **Selectman Hill's** comment regarding emails and stated that she read them all, however, she feels that perhaps these individuals have not experienced what she has. She confirmed the board is doing what is in the best interest of the community.

Selectman Mahoney repeated his motion.

First Selectman Moll noted for the record that he does not believe that the members of the commission up for reappointment did anything wrong per se, but he does not think that they did enough. **Selectman Hill** asked **First Selectman Moll** to outline the questions that were posed to each candidate, which he did.

Selectman Harrington moved the motion. **Selectman Chafetz** asked to move on each candidate individually. **Selectman Mahoney** pointed out that the motion had already been made and **Selectman Chafetz** asked **Selectman Mahoney** to reconsider. **Selectman Mahoney** stated again that the motion had already been made, extensive discussion had occurred and it was time to vote on the motion. **Selectman Chafetz** disagreed and argued that he did not know the names of the candidates being presented for appointment or which commission members were being removed and he still felt that the Democrats had not been given a chance to respond.

Vote: 3 in favor (Moll, Harrington and Mahoney) and 2 against (Chafetz and Hill.) Motion passed.

Discussion and appointment of member to the Kent Memorial Library Commission to fill the remainder of Joe Grimard's term through November 30, 2025

Selectman Chafetz motioned to appoint **Jim Irwin** as a member of the Kent Memorial Library Commission to fill the remainder of **Joe Grimard's** term through November 30, 2025.

A quick discussion ensued regarding this position, with **First Selectman Moll** asking **Selectman Chafetz** if he was interested in motioning to appoint anybody from the group that had been up for reappointment this evening. **Selectman Chafetz** stated that what he really wanted to do was go back to the Democratic Party and be allowed to put names forward. **First Selectman Moll** said DTC Chair **Tom Frenaye** only put **Jim Irwin** up for consideration and that he did not receive anything specifically from the Republican Party for this particular position.

Vote: 3 in favor (Moll, Chafetz and Hill) and 2 opposed (Mahoney and Harrington.) Motion passed.

Selectman Updates

Suffield Alight

First Selectman Moll noted that the event was fun and successful and thanked the community for the amazing turnout. He also thanked **Kris Lambert** and **Pete Leclerc** for organizing the event, the Department of Public Works for all their assistance, the first responder units, the Parks and Recreation Department and all the local organizations that came out to participate.

Army Navy Ball Run

Tomorrow evening the Army Navy ball is coming through Suffield between 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to come out and greet the cadet runners in front of Town Hall as they make their way to Gillette Stadium.

Menorah Lighting on Town Green

Tomorrow evening the Yeshiva has invited **First Selectman Moll** to attend their first Menorah Lighting Ceremony on the Town Green. He will assist in lighting the first candle along with **Selectman Chafetz**. The event begins at 4:30 p.m. and all are encouraged to attend.

Open Town Positions

First Selectman Moll noted the town is in the process of looking for a new Director of Public Works as Chris Matejek, the current Director, will be leaving in the middle of December to take a position with the Suffield Academy. Chris will be missed by the town and we wish him well. Additional open positions include:

- Fire Marshal
- Assistant Finance Director
- Library Director
- Assistant Building Official
- Firefighter

Happy Holidays

First Selectman Moll wished everyone happy holidays, as the Board of Selectmen will not meet again until January 2024.

Public Comment

Kerry White, 995 Newgate Road – Ms. White, a 45-year member of the Friends of the Library, gave her thoughts and expressed her concerns on the decisions made this evening by the board with regard to the Library Commission.

Bob White, 995 Newgate Road – Mr. White reviewed his conversation with **First Selectman Moll** when they met to discuss reappointment to the Kent Memorial Library Commission. He quoted from historical meeting minutes from approximately two years prior when other Kent Memorial Library Commission members were up for reappointment and were not selected to remain on the commission. He claimed that this was “the first time ever that a Kent Memorial Library Commission member who wanted to remain on the commission was not allowed to do so.” He expressed concerns about candidate qualifications and politics being involved in decisions. He also spoke anonymously about three members who he feels have done nothing over the last two years. He addressed party balance, which he pointed out has nothing to do with the commission but is determined by the selectmen, and claimed that politics was never an issue until the Board of Selectmen’s meeting on January 5, 2022 when it was introduced by **First Selectman Moll, Selectman Harrington** and **Selectman Mahoney**.

Brendan Malone, 104 Third Street – Mr. Malone stated that while he has not been privy to everything that has been going on at the library, after hearing **Selectman Harrington’s** testimony, the board make the right choices this evening regarding members that may have needed to be removed from the Kent Memorial Library Commission.

Sandra Janik, 380 Prospect Street – Ms. Janik addressed **Selectman Harrington** and said that after listening intently to what she said earlier this evening, her personal opinion is that **Selectman Harrington** “100% missed the mark.” Ms. Janik also addressed **Selectman Mahoney** and told him that he “absolutely bullies people” at the Kent Memorial Library Commission meetings. She also spoke directly to **First Selectman Moll** and suggested that he might want to look at things from the standpoint of a person sitting in the audience and the transparency or lack of transparency in this whole process. She expressed concern about the fact that there does not appear to be a real or formal process for those interested in joining a commission. She concluded by saying she was very disappointed in the board’s

appointments this evening and would like to see the town post the official process for selection to all boards and commissions in town.

Dave Shute, 1165 Halladay Avenue – Mr. Shute quoted Barack Obama who said, “elections have consequences.” He said he agrees with this statement and feels that tonight we are seeing the consequences and the replacement of commission members is the right thing to do and balance should be restored. He also noted that he, like many people in the room who may not get up, are the “silent majority.”

Kristin Kling, 7 Strathmore Lane – Ms. Kling, a resident who moved back to Suffield after being gone for 37 years, commented on the negative reputation that she feels the town has for not being accepting or inclusive. In her opinion, this is a public problem that the entire state can see. She feels that now should be a time for healing, and yet she does not see anything of the sort at this meeting tonight.

Fred Sweitzer, 165 South Stone Street – Mr. Sweitzer shared his personal thoughts on trying to understand how “all this works.” He appreciated **Selectman Harrington** and **Selectman Mahoney’s** honesty when asked about the thought process behind some of their decision making. Mr. Sweitzer was hoping to understand more about the people who were considered and selected this evening and what they bring to the table, and yet he still feels like he does not have an understanding of who they are or how they will be able to support the library. He is hopeful that these individuals will be willing to follow the vision of collaboration discussed earlier. He concluded by saying that he is a member of ABAR and that his interest in the library coincided with **First Selectman Moll’s** decision to remove a book from an end cap that involved the LGBTQ+ community which is also a group he feels very concerned about. He resents ABAR being called a special interest group and being told that their purpose is to divide the town.

Angelo Marinone, 1500 Spruce Street - Mr. Marinone expressed his support for the board and the decisions made this evening involving the Kent Memorial Library Commission.

Muriel Coatti, 948 Russell Avenue – Ms. Coatti identified herself as one of the Kent Memorial Library Commission members who was not reappointed this evening. She noted that she was sickened by the misrepresentation that took place this evening with regard to the library, the directors, the board and the selection process of new commission members. She expressed concerns with the new commission members, one who she claimed has “made a fuss” in the past, and feels the commission is being loaded with people who are anti-library and will definitely be working in a certain direction. She accused **Selectman Mahoney** of being on “a march to destroy the library.” In her opinion, the town is “going down the tubes” and sincerely doubts if the Library Director position will be filled due to the arrogance of some members of the board who appear to make decision without including all members in those discussions.

Lee Corbert, 815 Mountain Road – Mr. Corbert explained that he normally tries to stay neutral and take into account all sides, however, he feels the library situation has been out of control for far too long. He acknowledged that there will always be differing beliefs and opinions among people, but to him it has become clear that there is definitely a special interest at the library. He pointed out that the people of our town voted for the majority of the Board of Selectmen to be republicans and they want these individuals to make decisions for the majority.

Kathy Bielonko, 981 East Street North – Ms. Bielonko does not believe anyone would choose to put people on the commission who are anti-library. She feels confident they picked a good group and she thanked them for their decisions.

Klaire Bielonko, 288 North Main Street – Ms. Bielonko, a lifetime Suffield resident, identified herself as one of the new members of the Kent Memorial Library Commission and offered information on her background and involvement with the town, as well as her goals as a new member of the Kent Memorial Library Commission. She also offered guidance to others interested in joining a town board or commission.

Tess McCool, 10 Sutula Road – Ms. McCool produced and read a social media thread involving a new commission member which she feels clearly proves there a political agenda in play. She expressed her thoughts on viewpoint neutrality, the LGBTQ+ community, removal of books, discrimination and the role of the library. She also referred to legal cases and rulings as they related to first amendment rights. She hopes that those appointed this evening will act in the best interest of every single citizen here in Suffield.

Annie Hornish, 864 Thrall Avenue – Ms. Hornish thanked **Selectman Hill** and **Selectman Chafetz** for their comments this evening and for staying strong. She feels they represent the majority of Suffield residents and that the Town Attorney's opinion on library powers is wrong. She believes the only turf war is by anti LGBTQ+ interests, which are infiltrating and corroding our community. In her opinion, the new members of the Kent Memorial Library Commission are inexperienced and have been put on the commission because they can be controlled.

Dr. Kristina Hallett, 1211 Newgate Road – Dr. Hallett brought up the recent Suffield Observer article written by **First Selectman Moll** and quoted a portion concerning special interest groups, while providing her personal opinions on what she heard this evening. She defined a special interest group and spoke about ABAR, which she described as a group that is all about inclusion and not division. She feels that the only special interest group to be worried about is the anti-LGBTQ+ group. She feels that **First Selectman Moll** is missing the point and that ABAR has never attempted to divide, but to be inclusive and make sure all people are being seen, heard, respected and valued in our town.

First Selectman Moll read an email that was distributed after the 2021 election involving Dr. Hallett in which she commented on the “red wave hitting our town” and advocating for **Selectman Chafetz** to be removed or asked to step down. **First Selectman Moll** pointed out that this did not seem very inclusive and could be construed as anti-semitic. Dr. Hallett countered by stating that she was not the only one on that email, that the issue was addressed long ago and she was shocked that **First Selectman Moll** would bring it up.

Jen Valentino, 221 Griffin Road - Ms. Valentino, a 14-year resident, explained why she got involved in the library and offered her thoughts on the supposed turf war mentality. She provided her thoughts on discrimination and personal interest groups and reviewed the town's equity statement with all.

Dave Gauthier, 3219 Phelps Road – Mr. Gauthier expressed concern over our local form of government and whether it may be in jeopardy. He feels the town needs a standardized, documented process for appointing anyone to a board, commission or committee. He also noted there is a well-documented process for removing members of boards, commissions or committees who are not performing well or doing the right thing. He feels the board is remiss in not removing those individuals who are not performing and just waiting for their term to expire.

Liz Warren, 185 North Main Street - Ms. Warren thanked **Selectman Hill** and **Selectman Chafetz** for their valiant efforts this evening. She directed her comments to **First Selectman Moll** and said that after watching and listening to him present information she felt as though it was a gross misuse of his power. She felt he was not clear and transparent with his entire board and did not distribute information equally among all members, especially with the interview process he described earlier. She also pointed out that

his claims related to ABAR being a special interest group are not accurate. She described the group as non-political; a group who is humanitarian and stands up for people, not politics.

Jill Adams, 380 Prospect Street – Ms. Adams greeted all and congratulated the winners on the recent election. She noted the chill body language and the emotions that appeared to be running high. She suggested an audit of the library. She also addressed each selectman and gave her thoughts on their comments and/or actions.

Selectman Mahoney motioned to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary

