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By Erica Boucher at 3:19 pm, Sep 14, 2026

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE KENT MEMORIAL LIBRARY COMMMISSION

September 8, 2026
7:00 PM
Suffield Town Hall Meeting Room
Hybrid Meeting

Vice Chair David Sylvestre called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Julie Bodnar, Denise Boutin, Ray Dalrymple, Claire Kawalec, Nina Kendrick, Aaron Marcavitch, David Sylvestre, Christine Sinopoli, Despina Tartsinis

Absent: Greg Sparzo, Michael Alexopoulos, Fred Sweitzer

Also present: Library Director Amy Vessella, Associate Library Director Liz Bologna

COMMISSIONER OPENING COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

Approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Kent Memorial Library Commission

Commissioner Kendrick pointed out that Commissioner Aaron Marcavitch's attendance was not marked in the June minutes. It was confirmed that he was present at that meeting, so the minutes should be amended to include Commissioner Marcavitch's attendance.

Commissioner Dalrymple MOVED to AMEND the minutes from the June 9, 2026 regular meeting of the Kent Memorial Library Commission. Commissioner Bodnar SECONDED. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Commissioner Bodnar MOVED to ACCEPT the minutes from the June 9, 2026 regular meeting of the Kent Memorial Library Commission as amended. Commissioner Kawalec SECONDED. Vote 7 in favor (Bodnar, Boutin, Dalrymple, Kawalec, Marcavitch, Sylvestre, Tartsinis) with 2 absentions (Kendrick, Sinopoli). The motion PASSED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Kendrick inquired about reporting informal communications and how to handle that information. Commissioners discussed this and it was generally agreed upon that this section of the agenda should be reserved for formal communications addressed to the commission.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Director Vessella reported on summer statistics, programming (including Revolutionary Libations, Shark Week, and Secret Agent training camp), and record high enrollment in the summer reading program. She also commented on library outreach at the Suffield Farmers' Market.

There was flooding in the courtyard lobby and staff side entrance in July. Facilities responded quickly to address the situation. She is seeking to have a storage closet built underneath the stairs in the main entrance library.

The information kiosk outside the book drop has been installed.

Director Vessella commented that in partnership with ConneCT, the state library and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the library will be able to provide eligible residents with a laptop for a 5-year period. KML has been given 15 laptops for this program.

Director Vessella has started a new program, "Coffee with the Director," which will take place the first Friday of the month

Commissioners inquired about Constitution Week and S'more's Day and encouraged the library to highlight these.

Director Vessella commented that the middle schoolers' behavior has been excellent. She has not had to ask for community officers' presence at the library.

Commissioner Boutin commented that Chair Sparzo has been investigating what has been happening at other area libraries with similar behavioral issues and plans to report on this at a future meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES

Community Relations Subcommittee Chair Boutin commented on the August 20, 2026 meeting, in which the subcommittee discussed the upcoming Suffield on the Green event. She stated that more volunteers are needed. That meeting's minutes need to be added to the October agenda for approval.

Personnel Subcommittee Chair Kendrick commented on her attendance at the second of the Establish-Develop-Reflect meetings with the town on Aug 5, 2026 for Director Vessella's

professional review process. Kendrick was encouraged to see Director Vessella's progress towards her goals.

Finance Subcommittee Chair Dalrymple stated that the quarterly meeting will be scheduled soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Dalrymple inquired about the executive summary for the survey responses. Director Vessella informed the commission that she plans to have her executive summary of the community needs survey out during the week of September 14th. Her report is detailed and several pages long.

Commissioner Dalrymple MOVED that individual survey responses be released to the commission after the executive summary is provided to the commission. Commissioner Sinopoli SECONDED.

Discussion: Commissioner Sinopoli commented that raw data/primary sources are important, considering the library's history. Commissioner Dalrymple explained that this is for reasons of transparency and that commissioners want to see the raw data to see the range of the comments.

Vote: 8 in favor (Bodnar, Boutin, Dalrymple, Kawalec, Kendrick, Sinopoli, Sylvestre, Tartsinis) and 1 opposed (Marcavitch). The motion PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tess McCool stated that the Kwame Alexander event at the high school is free and open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dalrymple MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Commissioner Marcavitch SECONDED. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Kendrick
September 14, 2026