

**UNAPPROVED**

## Lyme Public Library Board of Directors

### Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2022

**Present:** Judith Ulrich, Chair; Emily Hildner; Laura Mooney; Joan Motyka; Morgan Regan; Lynn Richmond; Mary Stone; Jack Sulger.

**Ex Officio:** Melissa Fournier, Library Director

**Absent:** Diane Brown

**Guests:** Deborah Giaconia, President, Friends of the Lyme Public Library; John Kiker, Selectman

1. **Call to order:** Chair Judith Ulrich called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.
2. **Remarks by Guests:** John Kiker said it was the second time in three years that a Selectman had to attend a Library board meeting. He admonished board members “to be civil and kind” and to “bring the tone down,” stressing that the Library Director needs a stable and productive board to succeed. He also stated that he was responsible for not communicating with Judith about a board member’s planned travel commitments – and anticipated missed meetings -- prior to her joining the board.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Mary Stone made a motion to approve the minutes of September 28, 2022 with four corrections and it was seconded by Emily Hildner. Discussion ensued on Item B concerning the nomination for vice chair. John Kiker suggested a vote on the measure and there was support for not changing the language on that issue. Mary made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections A, C and D. Emily seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Correction A reads: “Agenda item **5. Friends President’s Report:** The book sale was very successful and raised \$2,200.” (instead of \$2,2000).” Correction C reads: “Agenda item **8. New Business:** (second paragraph) The Library will be open to borrowers on Election Day. The meeting room will be used for non-resident voting on the school referendum.” Correction D reads: “Agenda item **9. Executive Session:** (second paragraph) Omit the following: Jack Sulger made a motion to adjourn the Executive session. Diane Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.”
4. **Library Director’s Report:**
  - Monthly Statistics – Melissa Fournier reported increases in all categories: print and digital circulation, attendance, and computer use.
  - Report on Library Programs – Both adult and children’s programs also registered increases in number of programs and participants. LynnAnn Baldi has taken over the “As the Page Turns” book group.
  - Budget for FY 2023-2024: Work is underway. Melissa offered two scenarios covering different costs for Licenses and Databases to address issues of higher costs

to join the LION consortium, which she said has benefits over current system. Those benefits include: Old Lyme's library is a member so Lyme patrons would have smoother access to its collections; LION has a better and quicker delivery system; LION is a consortium with 5 of the top 30 libraries in CT with the largest physical collections, meaning greater access for Lyme patrons; its IT department is "very receptive," and every 6 years we would receive a free public access computer. Melissa reported on the pros and cons of other options, but emphasized the value of the LION consortium.

- On Monday, Melissa attended the New England Library Association meeting and gave a presentation on the Racial Equity Book Club that she said "went well."

5. **Friends President's Report:** Deb Giaconia reported that \$460 has been spent on programs from the \$4,000 program budget for 2022-2023, with \$1,450 encumbered for upcoming programs and a balance of \$2,090. She reported that the Friends had its best-ever year for book sales, earning \$4,876 in 2022. That included \$2,466 from the October 14-15 Art, Architecture and Native American book sale, with robust volunteer support. She also said the Friends were working collaboratively with Laura Mooney and Joan Motyka to establish a Coffee Hour at the library, beginning Dec. 6, starting at 10:30 A.M. She said the Friends would provide financial support and volunteers every month. She also called the recent Lyme Volunteer Fair a "wonderful event," and said five people signed up to be volunteers supporting the library.
6. **Foundation President's Report:** Jacqueline Jaffe was not in attendance. Judith reported that the Foundation is interested in greater collaboration with the board of directors and the Friends of the Library.
7. **Old Business:**
  - Report on Volunteer Fair: John Kiker reported that the success of the fair has not been quantified but there was a strong turnout and various groups had sign-up sheets with 4-5 new volunteers.
  - Report on Coffee Project: Laura reported on the plans for the Dec. 6 coffee hour, which will feature holiday cookies. Monthly coffee hours will follow and offer opportunities for increasing engagement with the community and could serve as incubators for other activities as mahjong and canasta. This project is being done with support from the Friends.
8. **New Business:**
  - Judith reported that the evaluation process committee was working to develop a performance review for the Library Director.
  - Holiday party: Lynn Richmond made a motion to hold one this year. It was seconded by Emily and approved. Emily made a motion to hold the party on Dec. 14, 5-7 P.M. and it was seconded by Joan and approved.
  - Judith raised the issue of a possible board retreat.
  - The strategic plan was discussed. Questions were raised about how the board should address and implement it, and what action plans should be undertaken. John Kiker

said he would look at the strategic plan. Further discussion to follow at a later meeting.

9. **Next Meeting:** Dec. 7 at 4:00PM.

10. **Adjournment:**

Emily made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joan Motyka,  
Secretary *pro tem*