

Lyme Public Library Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes April 26, 2023

Present: Judith Ulrich, Chair; Laura Mooney, Vice Chair; Joan Motyka, Secretary; Mary Stone; Jack Sulger; Lynn Richmond

Absent: Diane Brown, Emily Hildner; Library Director Melissa Fournier

Ex Officio: John Kiker, Selectman

Guests: Deborah Giaconia, President, Friends of the Lyme Public Library; Jacqueline Jaffe, Chair, Lyme Public Library Foundation

1. **Call to order:** Chair Judith Ulrich called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Laura Mooney, seconded by Jack Sulger, made a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Report on Sweet Spot:** Joan Motyka urged board members to attend the next Sweet Spot May 2 and said the board would be responsible for baking in June. Joan to post a notice about it on FaceBook People of Lyme.
4. **Report by Friends president:** Deborah Giaconia reported \$48 came in from the Book Nook in the most recent month. She invited all board members to attend the Friends' annual meeting June 15; invitations will go out shortly. She said the nominating committee is seeking a new Friends president and vice president. She also reported that the group's work with director Melissa Fournier on the SOAR effort was "very productive," that it was "gratifying to look at the collective effort on behalf of the library" and to see how a successful support system has been built for the library.
5. **Report by Foundation chair:** Jacqueline Jaffe reported that Linda Morel, who joined the foundation board two months ago and is now chair of the finance committee, is reviewing the foundation's portfolio and will report to the foundation board in May. Jacqueline will then report to the library board. She said the Foundation's 2023 fundraising event will be *Jersey Boys* at the Ivoryton Playhouse on the Thursday before Labor Day weekend, and that planning will begin shortly. She also said that she had discussed doing a SOAR exercise with the foundation board but there was no interest as the group sees its primary role as managing the library's endowment.
6. **John Kiker reported** that the Old Lyme Democratic Town Committee will host a rally against book banning on April 28 at 5:30 at the deli shopping center across from Big Y.
7. **Library Director's Report:** No oral report in Melissa's absence. Copies of her report were sent to board members in advance and distributed at the meeting. No discussion.

8. **Old Business: Strategic Planning**

John said there have been 50-75 responses to the survey and that he would encourage Melissa to include a link to the survey in all the library's electronic correspondence.

Jack presented a Lyme (2021) Town Profile that showed more than half of our population was over 50; our largest population group was aged 50-59 (20%) and that 10% of the population was under 10. It also showed that educational attainment in Lyme was higher than the state average.

Lynn Richmond reiterated some of the changes in library usage, services and needs discussed at previous board meetings, changes that emerged after the last strategic plan. She said our discussion of the 2019 goals showed many successes and that we might want to keep many of the goals and just tweak them. She said strategic plans often span five years with strategies tweaked every year or so; the decision on duration would be left to the board. Mary Stone said the thinking in the previous plan was that there would be an annual or biennial checkup.

Lynn repeated her request to board members to discuss several questions with friends and neighbors: What's missing in Lyme? What would you like to see in Lyme? What role can the library play? She asked that feedback be sent to her. She also suggested the board may want to revisit its vision and mission as we go forward. There was discussion of the roles of library stakeholders.

9. **Executive Session:** Mary made a motion, seconded by Joan, to go into executive session at 5:48 and to invite Deborah, Jacqueline and John into the executive session. The motion was approved unanimously. A motion was made to come out of executive session at 6:37.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:39.

The next meeting will be held May 31, 2023, at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Motyka, *Secretary*