

Lyme Public Library Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes June 28, 2023

Present: Judith Ulrich, Chair; Joan Motyka, secretary; Jack Sulger; Diane Brown; John Kiker

Absent: Laura Mooney, Vice Chair; Lynn Richmond

Ex-Officio: Melissa Fournier, Library Director

Guests: Deborah Giaconia, outgoing President Friends of the Lyme Public Library; Jeanne Rutigliano, incoming President, Friends; Natalie Hall, Children's Librarian; Mary Powell St Louis, Lyme resident

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Judith Ulrich called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. She welcomed John Kiker as a newly sworn-in member of the board and said Michael James will rejoin the board but has not yet been sworn in. She said Morgan Regan has submitted her formal resignation from the board. She turned the floor over to Jack Sulger who announced that he was relocating and this would be his final board meeting. Jack was given a round of applause for his long service to the library.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes, May 31 and April 26:** Because there was no quorum at the May 31 meeting, April 26 minutes were not voted upon. A motion was made by Diane Brown and seconded by Jack to approve the April 26 minutes. This motion was approved unanimously. A motion was made by Joan Motyka to approve the May 31 minutes with an amendment to show the next Sweet Spot will be on August 1, with no July gathering. That motion was seconded by John and approved unanimously.
3. **Report by Friends' President:**
Deb Giaconia reported that the Friends of the Library board slate of June 30, 2023 was: Jeanne Rutigliano, president; Holly Rubino, secretary; Anna James, treasurer. Deb reported that the membership mailings have been mailed, and that preparations for the Friends' annual book sale in September would soon begin. She commended Wendy Buccheri and Jo-Ann Shettles for making the Book Nook so appealing. She introduced Jeanne Rutigliano, who discussed her long involvement with the library.
4. **Report from President of the Foundation:** None. In Jacqueline Jaffe's absence Judy encouraged the board to attend the Foundation fundraiser, *Jersey Boys*, on Aug. 31.
5. **Report by Children's Librarian:** Natalie Hall said 39 children have signed up for the summer reading program; last year 21 completed the program. She said there has been robust attendance at the pre-K story times and thanked the Friends for purchasing an extra table and chairs.
6. **Report by the Library Director:** Melissa passed around the new flyer designed by Elizabeth Reinhart to showcase museum passes offered by the library. She reported that print and digital circulation numbers were up, compared to May 2022, and that

attendance was significantly higher, at 1042, up from 955, and thanked Natalie for some of those gains. She cited two recent emails from patrons applauding Kathy Varady's work with the Cookbook Club. She also said the library would have a float at the town's 4th of July parade and encouraged board participation. Melissa also cited a recent conversation with a patron who asked if the library had a copy of a book, whose name and author he didn't know, but that involved sex education. After a conversation in which Melissa said she discussed library policies about book selection, how our collection is not in violation of state or federal laws, and that we have rules specifying that children under 12 cannot come in unsupervised, the patron "left here very happy." Discussion ensued about a graphic novel in the collection at the library in Old Lyme, which is not in the Lyme Library collection. Mary Powell St Louis said she had "pictures" available of the book, *Let's Talk About It*, if anyone wanted to see. John said: "We'll watch this issue and stay on top of it."

7. **Old Business: Sweet Spot:** Joan reported that the Sweet Spot has passed its 6-month anniversary and has been holding steady at 25-30 guests. She said the collaboration with the Friends made it possible and encouraged greater board support. Joan also passed around a sheet of contact information and asked board members to confirm their contact information. She said it would be part of a board packet now being developed.
8. **Old Business: Strategic Planning.** Lynn Richmond will email the board a packet of materials concerning the Strategic Plan and asked that comments be directed to her. Discussion will be held at the next meeting.
9. **Executive Session:** A motion was made and approved unanimously to go into executive session at 6:05 pm. A motion was made to come out of executive session at 6:25 pm and approved unanimously.

10. Adjournment: 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Motyka, Secretary of the Board of Lyme Public Library.