

**LYME LIBRARY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 24, 2024  
DRAFT**

**PRESENT:** Laura Mooney, Chair, Joan Motyka, Vice Chair, Michael James, Secretary;  
John Kiker, Judy Ulrich, Ralph Lewis, Mike Prill  
**Zoom:** Lynn Richmond

**EX OFFICIO:** Melissa Fournier, Library Director

**GUESTS:** Jeanne Rutigliano, President of the Friends of the Lyme Public Library

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Mooney called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Motyka motioned for the minutes from March to be accepted as written; seconded by Ms. Ulrich. Minutes accepted unanimously.

**3. WELCOME**

Ms. Mooney welcomed Mr. Prill as the newly installed board member.

4. Ms. Mooney reported that three anonymous donors have agreed to cover the costs of installing a security system for the building. Ms. Mooney reported that the town first selectman, David Lahm, has agreed to have the town cover the cost of the monthly security system software.

**5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Melissa Fournier reported that due to a faulty patron counter, the attendance statistics were down for the month. The Friends have agreed to purchase a new patron counter. Library circulation continues to be up. The bi-weekly Sunday afternoon film series at the Library which had substantial attendance, has concluded its first season. This fall, a new evening film series "Twice Told Tales" will feature a series of paired films each followed by a discussion and pot luck dinner. Resident Janet Roach along with Ms. Fournier will continue to lead the series. Ms. Fournier reported that the Library will have ten "Witness Stones" installed in front of the building. The "Witness Stones" commemorate the lives of enslaved Africans who lived in Lyme in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Fournier will speak at a ceremony at the Phoebe Griffin Library in Old Lyme recognizing the enslaved Africans. There will be a ceremony at the Library later this summer.

**Ms. Fournier reports that the new staff continue to settle in nicely. The Racial Equity Book Club will start up again this fall.**

#### **5. REPORT FROM FRIENDS:**

**Ms. Rutigliano reports that the book donations continue to increase. Ms. Rutigliano reported that the Friends annual meeting will be coming soon and urges everyone to attend.**

#### **6. REPORT FROM THE SWEET SPOT:**

**Ms. Motyka reported that the Sweet Spot continues to be well attended, averaging between 25 and 30 residents. Judy Cotton's art and paintings are now on display and Marcie Conway continues to perform her string music. Ms. Motyka encouraged the community to attend. The next Sweet Spot will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Sweet Spot in July.**

#### **7. REPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION:**

**No report from the Foundation.**

#### **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Outreach Committee:**

**Chair Mooney reported that The Lyme Volunteer Fair will be held at the Library on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 2pm until 4pm. Holly Rubino and Ralph Lewis are the organizers. There will be signs posted throughout town. The Volunteer Fair is crucial to enlisting new volunteers. Mr. Lewis (and his family) are organizing the Library's first "Trivia Night" to be held once a month on Wednesdays at 7pm beginning in July. The exact date will be announced in the publication of the next Library newsletter. The David Ruggles celebration continues its planning; the Director will be meeting with the New York Public Library Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for assistance on Mr. Ruggles life and work.**

##### **Facilities Committee:**

**Ms. Mooney reports that the committee will be made up of Mike Prill, Judy Ulrich, John Kiker, Lynn Richmond, and Melissa Fournier with a tentative meeting May 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Fournier and Mr. Prill are gathering cost data on a handicap accessible front door.**

#### **9. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Strategic Plan Status report: Mr. Kiker and Ms. Richmond discussed a draft of the status reporting form. The form delineates each section of the Strategic Plan, who is responsible, action taken, and measurable outcomes. The Board discussed how this reporting form may be used in planning the Board meeting agenda and tracking progress.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**The Board discussed plans for a June party marking the accomplishments of the year, including recognizing the current and new staff.**

**The board continues its discussion about board recruitment.**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Mooney, seconded by Mr. James, Accepted unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.**

**REMINDERS:**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY, May 29, 2024**