

CHAPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting
Chaplin, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2021

Chairperson Victor Boomer called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Board members present were Adele Swart, Diane Cox, Leslie Ricklin and Jeanette Haines. Also present was Library Director Sandra Horning. Board member Bill Jenkins was absent.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2021:

Motion to approve the minutes from June 21, 2021, was made by Jeanette Haines with the following correction: Item #7A should read – The laptops will be used in the library and locked up at night. The motion was seconded by Diane Cox and carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Motion to add to agenda Tent Discussion as Item #8F, was made by Adele Swart, seconded by Leslie Ricklin and carried unanimously.

Leslie Ricklin presented information on a podcast that will be held on August 26th from 2-3pm regarding rural libraries and their role in Public Health (a link is available for anyone interested).

5. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Town of Chaplin Annual Report request was received from the Board of Finance and is due September 30th.
- A copy of the ACLB Newsletter was received.

7. REPORTS:

A. Director's Report:

- There was a total of 359 people for June (includes 1 person at the window). The library was open 17 days with an average of 21 people per day. Circulation was 802 with 419 items checked out and 97 electronic checkouts. There were 149 people that attended outdoor events under the tent including the Barbershop Quartet, Cookbook Club, Story Time, and Summer Reading.
- There was a total of 357 people for July (includes 1 person curbside). The library was open 17 days with an average of 21 people per day. Circulation was 861 with 455 items checked out and 115 electronic checkouts. There were 140 people that attended outdoor events including the K9 Dog event with over 100 people in attendance.
- The \$3,000 ARPA Grant was received and approved for the following: 3 laptops, 3 laptop locks, a Hotspot, 2 charging stations, a people counter and wireless printer scanner (hope to setup so people can use on their own).
- Signs have been changed to reflect that the town has asked for masks to be worn in town buildings regardless of begin vaccinated.
- Summer Reading ends this week.
- The Ice-Cream Social with the Ukulele Club had a nice turnout.
- The Cookbook Club will meet on August 30th on Farm to Table event with the Senior Center and will be open to the community.

- The next Book Chat will be held on September 3rd.
- Story Time with crafts will start again on September 1st at 10:30am under the tent.
- The white box above the door outside is a new wireless Wi-Fi for a stronger signal that reaches all the way to the trooper's house (Grant through CT Public Wi-Fi).
- The two volunteers from Parish Hill are done for the summer (letters were written for their work).
- Applied for two more hotspots and three laptops to loan out to patrons through the Emergency Connectivity funding. Jeanette Haines asked if the history needs to be checked on the laptops (Sandy will check on what is needed to make it safe to loan them out).
- The library will be closed on Monday, September 6th for Labor Day.

B. Members Report:

Leslie Ricklin addressed an article in the ACLB Newsletter regarding preparing for what the future may bring. They recognize that leadership is crucial and offered several workshops to lead to success with different scenarios presented for the future (who could have predicted a pandemic or an insurrection). There is a heavy focus on bridging the digital gap to make everything available for everyone (Sandy).

C. Chair Report: No Report

8. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

A. Speaker Programs:

- A Genealogy program is available and could be split with the Senior Center at a reasonable price. You can pick a topic from Introduction and Discussion of a Specific Record Type, Working with DNA, or Understanding a Historical Event with Research.
- Susan Powers does workshops on "Stuff Dreams are made of" (dream interpretation with a Q & A session at the end) and "Good Nights Rest" (learn about sleep cycles and dream cycles followed by discussion of the most common sleep disorders).
- Leslie Ricklin reported the Bicentennial has scheduled a talk by Walt Woodward on February 26, 2022 (snow date of February 23rd) titled "Trouble in the land of steady habits: Constitution of 1818" that nicely follows the January talk by Sandy Horning's son on Ben Chaplin's Will. Diane Cox suggested posting updates on Googlegroups (announcements for the Bicentennial will begin in September).

B. Discuss Reading dates for the Poet Laureate with an open house:

The library welcomes everyone to join them on Friday, September 10th to honor Adelaide Northrup (Poet Laureate) and Susan Powers (Honorable Mention) at 6pm under the tent with light refreshments. Invitations will be sent out including the First Selectmen and candidates running for public office. Volunteers are needed to help and make finger foods – appetizers or desserts (please email Adele if interested).

C. Budget Update:

The new budget is in force. Approximately \$3,000 was returned to the budget from the last fiscal year (mostly due to electricity). There is a dispute with Eversource regarding invoices for the solar panels.

D. Landscaping:

The landscaper mulched in July and is doing a good job (there is funding for next year). He will be back within two weeks to pull up weeds again and was asked to consider doing the Senior Center with the Library (waiting for a quote). Leslie Ricklin encourages more pollinator plants around the library for bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies and would love to see beebombs and hummingbird moss. There is milkweed coming up and a butterfly bush next to the book drop. Jeanette Haines likes the echinacea that came up this year.

E. Strategic Planning for the Library:

1) Friends of the Library:

A patron has asked when the Friends of the Library will start meeting again (will discuss at the next meeting).

F. Tent Discussion:

Sandy Horning loves the tent (it is very sturdy) and would like to keep it for another month until October 15th if the Senior Center and Town approves (could use Covid funds if available).

Motion to approve extension of the tent until October 15th pending approval by the Senior Center and Town, was made by Leslie Ricklin, seconded by Jeanette Haines and carried unanimously.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Include items from the current agenda.

10. ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (7:43 PM) was made by Adele Swart, seconded by Leslie Ricklin and carried unanimously.

Minutes will be approved at the next regular meeting.

***Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk***