

CHAPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting
Chaplin, Connecticut
Special Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2023

Chairperson Victor Boomer called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Board members present were Diane Cox, Leslie Ricklin, Brian Cohen, Jeanette Haines and Alternate Adele Swart. Also present was Library Director Sandra Horning. Absent was Board member Bill Jenkins.

Alternate Adele Swart seated for Board member Bill Jenkins.

3. APPROVE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2023:

Motion to approve February 27, 2023 special meeting minutes, made by Adele Swart with the following correction: Item #7 should read – Received note from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art about donation from Ann Chuk. ***The motion was seconded by Jeanette Haines and carried with abstention by Diane Cox.***

4. CORRESPONDENCE: None

5. REPORTS:

a. Director's Report:

- There was a total of 294 people in-person (1 curbside) for February. The library was open 15 days with an average of 20 people per day. Circulation was 583 with 331 items checked out and 124 electronic checkouts.
- There was a total of 391 people in-person for March. The library was open 14 days with an average of 28 people per day. Circulation was 547 with 278 items checked out and 115 electronic checkouts. About 125 people attended in-person events.
- She read to the 2nd grade at Chaplin Elementary on March 2nd for Read Across America.
- School vacation activities include: Zen's Critters on April 12th at 10:30am, Rock Painting, and Free Play with Legos.
- Book Chat will be held on April 14th.
- Guest author Shelly Olm will be visiting Story Time to read her book (Shelly Snail Sees Sound) on April 18th.
- The library will be closed on April 7th for Good Friday (Town Hall and Senior Center will be closed on Monday).
- Only 3 tickets left for the William Kent Krueger talk on May 16th (contact Sandy if interested). The library will have a book discussion the week of April 24th.
- Planning to get the carpets cleaned after the Ridgeway exhibit comes down. Some pieces of carpet are coming up at the seams in the Meeting Room (obtaining quotes to repair or replace – Diane suggested Michaud Flooring). Will consider adding to the CIP if it needs replacement.

b. Board Chair Report:

The merit increase (including increase of 4 hours) for the Library Director was approved by the Board of Selectmen.

c. Board Member Reports:

- Leslie Ricklin reported the Bicentennial Sub-Committee consulted with the CT Digital Archive housed at UCONN (mission is to preserve CT history) to digitize and preserve the Bicentennial events. The archive will be here at the library with a link on the website that will have access throughout the country (Sandy asked for help with the link to make more user friendly).
- Brian Cohen spoke about his non-profit with 2 major indoor exhibits that showcases art for 140 high school students from around the state. The displays will be turned over in April to shapes and

bright colors in collaboration with David Hayes surrounded by art from Chaplin Elementary students (would like to submit photos for display in the library – Sandy asked for a flyer).

- The Senior Center will be displaying work from local artists (eventually will be open to everyone).

6. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

a. Speaker Programs:

- Mary Treat Talk in May (working on a flyer – Joshua’s Trust is helping to advertise).
- Quiet Corner Reads with guest author William Kent Krueger on May 16th.

b. Monthly Budget Update:

Propane is expected to go over soon. The proposed budget was not increased for Propane (cost savings expected with new HVAC System) and Electricity (cost is split with the Senior Center – unclear of any savings with the solar panels). The solar panels leaked again and repaired.

c. Discuss Historic Homes of Chaplin Village Brochure:

The price to print Historic Homes of Chaplin Village Brochure is \$93 for 40 copies. Discussed adding acknowledgements for editing to the inside cover.

Motion to move forward with printing 40 copies of the Historic Homes of Chaplin Village Brochure upon approval from Johanne and Rusty, made by Adele Swart, seconded by Brian Cohen and carried unanimously.

d. Friends of the Library Update:

- The Ridgeway Exhibit was well attended with about 70 people (thanks to Sandy and Warren for hanging the sailboat, Johanne and Peggy for speaking to honor Therese). The family was pleased with the exhibit that will be up until April 8th (people continue to visit after hearing about the exhibit).
- Planning a Storybook Walk with each page of a book laminated and displayed along a fence in a public place with activities (Rec Commission approved using split-rail fence). The Board was presented with selection of books to pick from and sample displays from other libraries (“All Together Now” theme). Looking at laminating company in Willington (Brian suggested checking with Staples and checking online – can scan the pages). Leslie Ricklin is excited about having this available for kids that need help with reading due to the pandemic. Brian Cohen suggested coordinating activities with the library to draw families in.
- Friends will have a table setup from 10-12:30am with membership forms at the Senior Center Plant Sale on May 13th.
- Lisa Kegler asked the Friends to co-sponsor the Plant Swap with the Senior Center on June 17th (rain date – June 24th) that will be a community event with games.
- Friends is starting to organize a Seed Catalog with tips on what to do with planting (meeting with a Master Gardener for tips to ensure a successful project).

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Items from the current agenda

8. ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (7:24 PM) made by Leslie Ricklin, seconded by Jeanette Haines and carried unanimously.

Minutes will be approved at the next regular meeting.

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