

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Library Meeting Room
Chaplin, Connecticut
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2025

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Board members present: Jeanette Haines, Adele Swart, Diane Sanchez, Diana Alvarez, Alternate Joyce St. Lawrence. Others present: Library Director Sandra Horning. Board members absent: Bill Jenkins.

Alternate Joyce St. Lawrence seated for Bill Jenkins.

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2025 MINUTES:

Motion to approve January 27, 2025 regular meeting minutes, made by Diane Sanchez with the following correction: Item #7A – correct spelling of Retired Attorney Kay Berris. Motion seconded by Joyce St. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

4. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Add to agenda as Item 8F – Discuss Plan to Cover Library Director Leave of Absence.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Received Newsletter and membership renewal request (\$100) from Association of CT Library Boards (ACLB).

Motion to renew ACLB membership for \$100, made by Diana Alvarez, seconded by Adele Swart and carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS:

A. Director's Report:

January – 450 people in-person (open 16 days with an average of 28 people per day). Circulation – 732 (388 items checked out, 213 electronic checkouts). About 135 people attended in-person events.

- HVAC still cool in meeting room (portable plug-in heater available if needed). Suggestion made that cold may be from windows not insulated (will talk to Dave).
- Signed 5-year contract with Connecticut Education Network for Internet through Federal E-rate program.
- New book account with Bodart good (received 1st order).
- Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 1st well attended with 25-30 people (snacks a hit and much appreciated).
- Next Cookbook Club is this Wednesday at 6pm (virtual cooking class with chef Jennifer Marks).
- Next Book Chat is March 28th at 3pm.
- Reminder – will be on vacation March 12-22.

B. Board Chair's Report:

a. Update on members reading "Meet Me at the Library" by Shamichael Hallman:

Copy of book available to read (would like to do a Book Chat at the next meeting to encourage people in town to come to the library).

C. Board Members' Report: None

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

A. Speaker Programs:

- History of the Mohegan Tribe program this Saturday at 1pm at the Senior Center.

- Poet Lisa Taylor with new novel on April 23rd at 6:30pm.
- Martha Hall Kelly is Quiet Corner Reads author for 2025 - will be in Woodstock in May with tickets on sale March 3rd (will schedule Book Chat later).

Future programs - Athlete Tyler Kania promoting memoir "Maniac with No Knees" (looking at May 21st); Juan Roman's wife promoting fantasy book "Mystic Mustangs" (Leslie suggested summer program under the tent); Historic Music program with Rick Spencer & Dawn Indermuehle (won online auction to bid on performers through CT Library Association for \$190 – Board asked to choose 3 favorites from music list).

B. Budget proposal for FY 25-26...meeting with the BOF on March 3:

Board invited to present their budget to the BOF and answer questions on March 3rd.

C. Friends of the Library update:

- No meeting this month.
- Will have table at Mohegan Tribe program this Saturday to educate people on Native American foods with help from Diane Sanchez and her husband Juan.
- Leslie Ricklin offered to work with Friends on Bylaws.

D. Poet Laureate search:

a. Status of applications and timeline (March 3 is deadline):

2 poems received to date (from same person). Will keep poems anonymous for Board to read at the next meeting.

E. Update re: meeting with First Selectman Juan Roman:

- No update on construction project (NECCOG still hasn't followed through with a plan) – Leslie will continue to check on.
- There are 2 Town Managers (grant funded through NECCOG) – one geared towards grant writer, one towards administrator.

F. Discuss Plan to Cover Library Director Leave of Absence:

Board discussed plan for Interim Library Director (Sandy looking at leave of absence from September to November – available remotely if needed). The Board and Friends will help with programs and anything else needed.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: March 24, 2025

- Items from current agenda
- Book Chat on "Meet Me at the Library"
- Budget
- Discuss Plan to Cover Library Director Leave of Absence

10. ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (7:40 PM) made by Jeanette Haines, seconded by Diane Sanchez and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*