

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

1. **CALL to ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairperson Henrietta Horvay
ATTENDANCE: Josephine Jones, Patricia Sanders, Johanna Kimball, Chairperson Henrietta Horvay, Lynette Miller, Anne Green, and Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri and First Selectman Todd Carusillo .
Excused: none
Others: Members of the Friends of the Library, Anne Kelly, President of the Friends of the Library on zoom
2. **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING** – Lynette Miller motioned to accept the amended minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2024; seconded by Patricia Sander and voted unanimously. Amended as follows:
Page 2 third paragraph: Lynette Miller states she handed in 50+ complaints.
Director’s report: Johanna Kimbal abstained from the vote and did not vote Yea.
Old Business: Motion was to receive the budget not “accept” the budget
Henrietta Horvay motioned to accept the amended minutes of the special meeting of February 26, 2024, it was seconded by Anne Green and was voted unanimously.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** –
Todd Carusillo states that he has reiterated that the First Selectman’s office knows and follows procedures.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Various correspondence has been disseminated to each of the board members. **Lynette Miller made a motion to receive the letters, seconded by Josephine Jones.** The motion passed unanimously.
5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri reports that the library usage statistics are consistent with the past couple of months. 146 visitors last month, 131 students and 15 teachers. Kanopy numbers are being counted differently this year and requires more investigation. Statistics for February show visitors and circulation are increasing.
 - Lynette Miller inquired of last month’s motion to add a weblink to the Town of Goshen library policies. Tabitha Guarnieri said she contacted the website servicer last week and has not heard back yet. Tabitha Guarnieri to find out the cost. This item will be reviewed at the next meeting.
 - Lynette Miller asked about the propriety of having the Friends of the Library weblink on the Goshen town library website as the Friends of the Library is a private 501C3.
 - **Lynette Miller made a motion with Josephine Jones seconding, to replace the Friends of the Library link on the town library website with the town library policies so no new costs will be incurred. A link to the Friends of the Library website could be added or mentioned elsewhere. Tabitha Guarnieri to find out how other libraries manage these links. A motion was made by Anne Green, seconded by Lynette Miller to table the motion until the next meeting. The vote to approve was unanimous.**
 - **Lynette Miller made a motion to receive the report with Johanna Kimball seconding. It was voted unanimously to receive the report.**
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**
Lynette Miller motioned to receive the report, it was seconded by Johanna Kimball and passed unanimously.
Discussion on the funds held by the Town of Goshen for Goshen Public Library purposes and funds held by the Friends of the Library that are outside of the town’s control.
Lynette Miller motioned to remove the funds managed by the Friends of the Library from the Town of Goshen Library financial reports and review; 1. Connecticut Community Foundation - Advised Fund -

#00382, 2. Connecticut Community Foundation - Donor Fund - #00443 and 3. Northwest CT Community Foundation.

Anne Kelly, President of the Friends of the Library recommended that the Goshen Library Board of Directors review the historical records to understand the initial intent of the Friends of the Library sharing information with the Goshen Library Board of Directors. The Goshen Library Board of Directors was invited to attend the Friends of the Library meeting to speak to the Friends of the Library treasurer.

Lynette Miller motioned to table the previous motion to the next meeting.

Lynette Miller motioned to have the Goshen Library Board of Directors secretary Anne Green send a letter to the treasurer of the Friends of the Library to inquire as to the original treasurers reasoning in sending their private financial information to the Goshen Library Board of Directors, with a copy to Henrietta Horvay. Anne Green seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** None

8. **OLD BUSINESS:** Gender Queer: A Memoir by Maia Kobabe

Letter titled Response to Challenge of Gender Queer. Signed by Tabitha Guarnieri, Library Director, Goshen Public Library, March 12, 2024, was read aloud by Tabitha Guarnieri with excerpts as follow:

"The book in question, Gender Queer, is a critically acclaimed book, having received positive reviews in Publishers Weekly (February 25, 2019), School Library Journal (starred review, July 1, 2019), and Booklist (starred review, March 15, 2020. It is also an award-winning book; it was awarded an Alex Award by the Young Adult Library Services Association and named a Stonewell Nonfiction Honor Book. On top of this, it has been selected/nominated for other awards across the country."

"Professional reviews consider it to be an adult book with crossover appeal to teens, and booksellers such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble have it listed for audiences of 18+ and 16+, respectively."

"We believe in everyone's freedom to read, and with the number of materials in our collection, not all of them will be appropriate or appealing to all readers. However, a book being inappropriate for some readers does not mean that that book should be inaccessible to all readers. No one is required to read any specific item from our library, and there are many alternatives for readers to explore what is right for them. Furthermore, we recognize the rights of parents to approve the borrowing materials of their own children -in short, it is the parents' responsibility to accompany their children or otherwise monitor their borrowing should they not wish their children to have access to certain materials."

"Removing this book from the library collection would be antithetical to the core ethics surrounding librarianship, as well as unconstitutional, and would set a dangerous precedent threatening our individual freedom to make our own decisions about what to read and what to believe."

Henrietta Horvay called for comments. The library board discussed placing the book out of reach behind a desk or on a high shelf. Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri reminds the Library Board, that is censorship. Tabitha Guarnieri states the library is going to be rearranged with a possible teen room added and that the book is in the adult non-fiction section.

The Library Board tells Tabitha Guarnier to send a letter to each of the complainants and to correct the statute noted in the letter to Connecticut General Statutes Title 53A. Penal Code § 53a-193

Lynette Miller states the problem of the placement of this book is still unresolved. **Lynette Miller made a motion for the Library Board of Directors to determine placement of this book (Gender Queer) within the Goshen Town Library. Anne Green seconded it. A vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Josephine Jones made a motion that Tabitha Guarnier revise her letter to end with the statement indicating the problem has been resolved and the book is placed in the adult non-fiction section. It was seconded by Johanna Kimball. Henrietta Horvay made a motion to withdraw the motion and it was seconded by Johanna Kimball.

Josephine Jones made a motion to have the book placed in the adult non-fiction section of the town library, seconded by Johanna Kimball. Lynette Miller motioned to amend the motion to add that the book will be placed in the adult non-fiction section on UPPER SHELF. Patricia Sanders seconded it.

Josephine Jones noted that this would make the book out of order in the classification system and extremely hard to find, which is censorship.

Suggestions by board members include placing the book behind a desk, removing the book entirely and only having it available digitally.

Lynette Miller read aloud from the Connecticut General Statutes Title 53A. Penal Code § 53a-193 on prohibited sexual acts and suggested contacting the Connecticut Library Association, the state police, and attorneys.

Josephine Jones motioned to table until next month, the motion to have the book placed in adult non-fiction section on an UPPER SHELF. The motion was seconded by Lynette Miller and passed unanimously

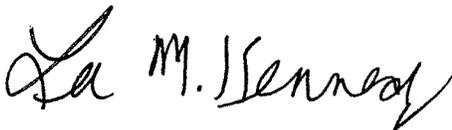
9. **NEW BUSINESS:** Henrietta Horvay motioned to approve \$100.00 for membership to the Association of Connecticut Library Boards for 2024. Josephine Jones motioned to table the discussion until next month. It was seconded by Lynette Miller and passed unanimously.

10. **Any other business rightly before the board.**

Lynette Miller questioned Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri about a meeting that may have been held in the Library on February 19 or February 20. Tabitha Guarnieri said it may have been the Connecticut Intellectual Freedom Meeting or a roundtable with the Connecticut Library Association on Zoom. Lynette Miller requested that Tabitha Guarnieri let the board know when another informational meeting arises..

11. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 5:40 pm by Johanna Kimball and seconded by Josephine Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 @ 4:00 pm



Lee M. Kennedy - Clerk

Received March 22, 2024 @ 11:33 A.M.

Attest 
Patricia Sanders
Goshen Town Clerk