

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:00 P.M.

This meeting will be held in the conference Room of the Town Hall and via Zoom Conference call Zoom Conference Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8156306211>

Meeting ID: Dial number 815 8630 6211
Option 2: Dial-in number 1-929-205-6099

1. Call to order
2. Attendance
3. Minutes of: Regular Meeting of March 20, 2024
4. Matters Arising from Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Correspondence
7. Director's Report
8. Acting Treasurer's Report
9. President's Report
10. Old Business:
 1. Lynette Miller – Statement regarding various items that arouse from last month's meeting
 2. Tabled to this meeting: Response to Challenge of Gender Queer-Tabitha Guarnieri
 3. Tabled to this meeting: Discussion and approval of Association of Connecticut Library Board Membership Application 2024
12. New Business:
 1. Dawn LaValle - Director of the Division of Library Development at the Connecticut State Library
13. Any other business rightly before the board.
14. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY May 15, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.

Received April 15, 2024 @ 2:22 P.M.

Attest Brian L. Burr
Goshen Town Clerk

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

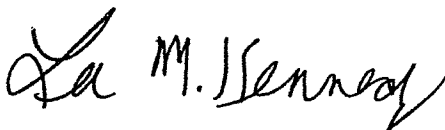
9. **NEW BUSINESS**; Henrietta Horvay motioned to approve \$100.00 for membership to the Association of Connecticut Library Boards for 2024. Josephine Jones motioned to table the discussion until next month. It was seconded by Lynette Miller and passed unanimously.

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 
Goshan Town Clerk

**Director's Report
Goshen Public Library
March 2024
Held April 17th, 2024
All Programs on Zoom unless otherwise marked.**

Programs

March 2nd, Saturday – Dr. Seuss Activities – 23 patrons (in person)
 March 4th, Monday – Mark Albertson – 9 patrons
 March 6th, Wednesday – Story Time – 5 patrons (in person)
 March 6th, Wednesday – Kite Making – 8 patrons (in person)
 March 9th, Saturday – Great Decisions – 5 patrons
 March 9th, Saturday – Body Language – 9 patrons (in person)
 March 11th, Monday – Writer's Group – 4 patrons
 March 11th, Monday – History Club – 4 patrons
 March 16th, Saturday – Friends Open House – 19 patrons (in person)
 March 16th, Saturday – Leprechaun Release – 3 patrons (in person)
 March 18th, Monday – History Club – 7 patrons
 March 19th, Tuesday – Story Time – 9 patrons (in person)
 March 20th, Wednesday – Story Time – 13 patrons (in person)
 March 22nd, Friday – Dungeons and Dragons – 6 patrons (in person)
 March 23rd, Saturday – “We Still Live Here” film screening – 10 patrons (in person)
 March 25th, Monday – Breakfast Book Club – 11 patrons (in person)
 March 25th, Monday – History Club – 5 patrons
 March 27th, Wednesday – School Visit – 152 patrons (135 kids, 17 teachers; in person)

Hoopla:	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Audiobooks & Music	52	39	21	39	30
eBooks	39	17	13	19	10
Movies & TV	23	16	11	9	3
Kanopy (tickets; previously views):	99	40	33	23	30

Statistics for February	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
General Patron Visits	593	636	414	398	469
Website Visits	2987(1841)	1401(1025)	1655(1000)	2107(961)	3520(115)
Computer & WiFi	31	26	18	21	26

Circulation Statistics	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Adult Book Circulation	467	414	405	464	472
YA Book Circulation	27	18	11	6	27
Children's Book Circulation	545	388	345	299	328
Graphic Novels	24	-	-	-	-
Periodicals	35	20	34	37	30
Adult Videos/DVD	44	49	26	44	100
Children's Videos/DVD	13	0	4	10	29
Audiobooks	11	12	7	26	15
Museum Passes	2	5	0	0	0
InterLibrary Loan	48	56	37	48	45
Total Circulation	1216	1000	920	974	1128

Overdrive	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
eBook	152	121	97	62	97
eBook Holds	215	134	109	101	106
Audiobooks	124	122	97	84	97
Audio Holds	149	91	58	82	83
Overdrive Magazines	58	4	12	6	-

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 TREASURER'S REPORT
 Wednesday April 17, 2024

Funds held by the Town of Goshen for Goshen Public Library purposes only:

1. Harmon Fund:

The Harmon Fund is held in a Certificate of Deposit and a Money Market account, both at Torrington Savings Bank (TSB). The CD principal is \$35,000. This CD matures on 3/07/2025 and will earn 0.25% interest.

Beginning Balance:	\$ 5114.20
Credit Interest	.41
The ending balance March 29, 2024	\$ 5,114.61

No withdrawals were made from the Money Market account February.

2. The Library Fund:

The balance of the due/to fund remains at \$8,928.87 as per the last report.

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONIES RECEIVED:

	Replaced/books	Fines	Copy/Printer	Fax	TOTAL
July 2023	-0-	-0-	38.20	21.00	59.20
August 2023	35.00	4.00	27.85	13.00	79.85
September 2023	-0-	22.00	21.90	2.00	45.90
October 2023	-0-	13.25	17.40	3.30	33.95
November 2023	0-	2.00	15.40	-0-	17.40
December 2023	15.00	-0-	9.15	5.00	29.15
January 2024	-0-	10.25	35.80	12.00	58.05
February 2024	-0-	8.65	25.15	6.00	39.80
March 2024	-0-	19.00	34.45	1.00	54.45

Response to Challenge of Gender Queer

With the tens of thousands of books that are published each year, no library can realistically acquire all of those, especially a library as small as Goshen Public Library. Similarly, no librarian can realistically read all the books published each year, which is why librarians are trained in collection development and management to keep our materials relevant. The Collection Development Policy of the Goshen Public Library explains the criteria used for material acquisition:

1. General Criteria for Acquisition

Selecting materials employing one or more of the following criteria will maintain high quality standards:

- Reputation and significance of the author or artist
- Authoritativeness and accuracy
- Literary style or artistic excellence
- Relevance to present or anticipated needs and interests of the community in terms of new materials as well as duplication of materials in high demand
- Permanent value as resource material
- Timeliness
- Relation to existing material in the library
- Accessibility in other collections through Interlibrary Loan
- Suitability of format for library use
- Price and availability of funds
- Local interest (Goshen and surrounding communities)

2. Acquisition and Development

The library will acquire materials in appropriate formats as best to meet service goals, space, staff, equipment, and budget constraints of the library.

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.

The concerns surrounding this title mainly relate to several explicit scenes in the book. For a book to be selected as quality material, it is to be judged by the content as a whole, not by detached excerpts. These scenes contribute to the main theme of the book, which is the author's journey towards self-understanding and acceptance. When this book is read in its entirety, these scenes to be prurient or gratuitous, nor are they obscene as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes.

Connecticut's obscenity statutes are set forth in CGS § 53a-193 through 210 which adopts the U.S. Supreme Court's definition of obscenity as defined in *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15(1973). More specifically, material is "obscene" if:

- a) taken as a whole, it *predominantly* appeals to the prurient interest,
- b) it depicts or describes in a patently offensive way a prohibited sexual act, and
- c) taken as a whole, it lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political or scientific value.

This obscenity standard adopted from *Miller* is "judged by ordinary adults applying contemporary community standards" whereby the state of Connecticut is deemed to be the community. (CGS § 53a-193(1)).

These explicit scenes may not be suitable for all readers, but we do not make purchasing decisions based on anticipated disapproval or controversy, nor do we avoid purchasing items with mature content just because they might be accessed by minors. The author wrote this book with an older teen or adult audience in mind – it is certainly not for children – and it was released by the publisher's older-reader imprint. 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.

On the note of parental responsibility to accompany/monitor their children's borrowing, this claim is affirmed in the ALA's *Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors*, an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, stating that:

"Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. A library's failure to acquire materials on the grounds that minors may be able to access those materials diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users."

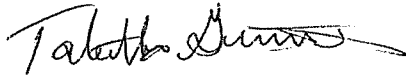
"Libraries and their governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's—and only their children's—access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their own children. Libraries and library governing bodies should not use rating systems to inhibit a minor's access to materials."

Giving users the ability to find the book that is right for them is the heart of library service. We are a public library for the benefit of everyone regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or personal beliefs. It is important that our collection reflects the diversity of our community.

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.

The copy of *Gender Queer* that was donated to the library by the Friends of the Goshen Public Library is now in our adult non-fiction collection.

Tabitha Guarnieri
Library Director, Goshen Public Library

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tabitha Guarnieri", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

March 12, 2024
Revised: March 27, 2024



Association of Connecticut Library Boards

P.O Box 263 • Ellington, CT 06029

www.aclb.wildapricots.org • aclbctinfo@gmail.com

Membership Application 2024

Membership year: January – December

Membership Category (Check one)

- Institutional (\$100 Annual Fee; covers all library board/institution members)
- Individual (\$35 Annual Fee)

Name of Library/Institution _____

Address _____

Mailing Address if different _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Library Phone Number _____

Library Director _____

Position or Title _____

Email _____

Board Chair _____

Position or Title _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Name of Individual membership _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Library affiliation _____

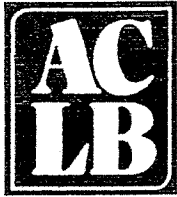
ACLB maintains a listserv for trustees called ACLB Trustee-Talk. We will not distribute our e-mail list to any outside parties and will use the list only for relevant communication with ACLB members. Please list names and emails of trustees who wish to participate.

Check if you are interested in participating on the ACLB Board or committees.

Fill out this form completely and forward with payment (made out to ACLB) to:

Association of Connecticut Library Boards
PO Box 263
Ellington, CT 06029

Questions? E-mail aclbctinfo@gmail.com



Association of Connecticut Library Boards

P.O Box 263 • Ellington, CT 06029

www.aclb.wildapricots.org • aclbctinfo@gmail.com

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Reminder to join ACLB!

Dear Chairpersons of Connecticut Library Boards,

ACLB's goal is to assist trustees in broadening their knowledge base regarding effective and efficient governance of public libraries by offering educational opportunities. Please consider having your Board join ACLB this year so that your board can take advantage of our workshops.

A membership form is enclosed but if you prefer, you can join via the online form on the ACLB website [www.aclb.wildapricot.org/membership]. Note above that our mailing address has changed.

Important! Update your library information

If you've already renewed using the email reminder, we thank you. But we need your help. Sometimes payment checks are received at ACLB without the accompanying membership form and hence we have no information beyond the library name. Even if you have already renewed, we encourage you to fill out and return the membership form **again**, by mail, email, or by the electronic membership form on the ACLB website. Please add individual Board members' names/emails so we can directly deliver our newsletter, upcoming workshop dates, and other information pertinent to libraries and library boards.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Jan Glover and Sue Phillips
Association of Connecticut Library Boards

Upcoming webinar on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 @ 7:00pm

What is diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and what does it mean for libraries?

Join Leah Farrell, librarian and activist, to discuss how creating more inclusive, welcoming public libraries can help build stronger, more empathetic, and engaged communities. During this presentation, we will learn about:

- The core concepts of DEI
- Why incorporating DEI into libraries is critical
- How you as a board member can support and champion your library's DEI efforts

Leah Farrell is a professional librarian and former Vice-Chair of the Bloomfield Public Library Board of Trustees. She co-founded the Wallingford Racial Justice Alliance in 2022 during her time as the Head of Adult Programming and Outreach at the Wallingford Public Library. She is currently the Programs and Outreach Librarian at the West Hartford Public Library and a member of the Town of West Hartford's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee.

Register for this webinar on the ACLB website.