

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting Wednesday, March 20, 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

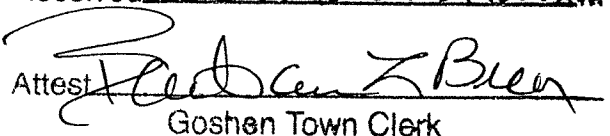
Option 2: Dial-in number 1-929-205-6099

1. Call to order
2. Attendance
3. Minutes of: Regular Meeting of February 21, 2024
4. Minutes of Special Meeting of February 26, 2024
5. Matters Arising from Minutes
6. Public Comments
7. Correspondence
8. Director's Report
9. Acting Treasurer's Report
10. President's Report
11. Old Business:
Response to Challenge of Gender Queer-Tabitha Guarnieri
12. New Business:
Approve Association of Connecticut Library Boards Membership Application 2024
13. Any other business rightly before the board.
14. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY April 20, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.

Received March 18, 2024 @ 12:32 PM

Attest


Freda Z. Blum
Goshen Town Clerk

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

1. **CALL to ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm by President Henrietta Horvay
ATTENDANCE: Josephine Jones, Patricia Sanders, Johanna Kimball, Chairperson Henrietta Horvay, Anne Green, Lynette Miller, and Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri via Zoom
EXCUSED: none
2. **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2024** – Henrietta Horvay motioned to accept the amended minutes of January 17, 2024, it was seconded by Anne Green and was voted unanimously.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**
 - Johanna Kimball made motion to reflect in the January 17, 2024, minutes that Josephine Jones initiated the motion to review the Library Collection Policy Complaint procedure during the February 21, 2024, meeting. Patricia Sanders seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - Lynette Miller made a motion to move the Public Comment to after New Business in the agenda. It was seconded by Anne Green and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Lynette Miller made a motion to add a link to the library policies on the library website and place a copy of the policies in a labeled binder at the library front desk. It was seconded by Johanna Kimball and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Lynette Miller made a motion to omit the word “representative” in the February 21, 2024 agenda under New Business as she does not represent anyone. Henrietta Horvay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** twelve letters received and to be covered under new Business
5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri reports that the library usage statistics are consistent with the past couple of months. No one in Connecticut is up to pre-covid numbers (2019). Budgets are on track with purchases.
 - Lynette Miller made a motion to require that the Library Board of Directors be notified for approval prior to contracting with guest speakers. Anne Green seconded it. Discussions were had regarding micromanaging versus oversight and the responsibility and interface with The Friends of the Library who pay for programming. Johanna Kimball and Henrietta Horvay abstained. Josephine Jones voted nay. Yea votes were Patricia Sanders, Johanna Kimball, Anne Green, Lynette Miller. The motion passed.
 - Josephine Jones motioned to receive the report and Lynette Miller seconded. It was voted unanimously to receive the report.
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No changes per Henrietta Horvay. Lynette Miller motioned to receive the report, it was seconded by Patricia Sanders and passed unanimously.
7. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** None
8. **OLD BUSINESS:** Budget and Capital five year plan. The budget is up about \$300 due to supplies, postage and professional development. Lynette Miller motioned to accept the budget and it was seconded by Anne Green. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Josephine Jones discussed the book (Gender Queer: A Memoir by Maia Kobabe) and the complaint policy. She stated that it was every Goshen resident's +right to challenge a book, but they must follow the Library Collection Policy Complaint procedure. The form is given to the Library Director who reads the book and

makes a determination. If the issue persists, it is to be read, reviewed, and voted by the Library Board of Directors. No books have ever been removed in the state of Connecticut.

The first Selectman and the Library Board of Director Chairperson Henrietta Horvay inadvertently overlooked the procedure and were incorrectly informed that the book (Gender Queer) was in the children's section. It was in the young adult section. Henrietta Horvay admits she did not check where the book was located and apologized if she did something unintentionally wrong. Henrietta Horvay was thanked for her many years of support and volunteering for the town.

A challenged book is to remain on the shelf until a determination is made. The library is not *loco parentis* and parents are obligated to assume responsibility for their children. Tabitha Guarnieri is considering reformatting the library to add more separation between the Young Adult and the Children's section,

Lynette Miller received forty complaints and will hand the complaints to the Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri tomorrow. The names of complainants will be held private and will not be part of the public record.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – 2 minute limit

(Names and addresses of the public will be held private and will not be part of the published record.)

Public comment was given:

Resident stipulates that there should be no blaming, no finger pointing, and no personal attacks. Let us call this a lesson well-learned and cautions us of May 10, 1933, and Hitler's book burning.

Resident reminds us that in 2022 the Goshen Town Library had a posting that said, "Every great Library has something to offend everyone". The Goshen Library collection contains a wide variety of viewpoints. This was not about a book, this was about rhetoric, censoring marginalized communities. Censorship is making a book hard to reach such as placing it high on a shelf or requiring it to be requested. These are violation of first amendment rights and cause serious legal and ethical ramifications. Parents' responsibility ends at their own family.

Many residents expressed concern about access to this book by young children.

Resident expresses concern a book may never be removed from the library and that the library would be reticent to remove a book.

Resident notes that the book was given many awards such as 2020 ALA given the Alex award (14+ year old). The book includes scientific research addressing body dysmorphia.

Resident says the book is inappropriate for children and should be placed out of reach of young children to protect them from their impulse control. The resident suggests restricting the book's availability to on-line only.

Resident is concerned of the book's depictions of menstrual cycles and young women's healthcare. The resident states the author isn't clear that this is not everyone's experience of puberty.

Resident states that although they do not personally like the book, they support keeping it in the library in an appropriate space. The resident reiterates that the purpose of the meeting is to provide a solution. Goshen is a little bit better today because of Henrietta Horvay.

Resident thanks the Library Board of Directors for being sensitive and professional.

Resident states that the library is a public space and should be a place of access and warns of censorship and first amendment violations. The resident notes that the book has been reviewed and found appropriate for high school ages and up. The library's goal is to provide knowledge and access.

Resident reminds us that we trust and respect our professionals and asks for clarification of the roles and responsibilities for the library.

Resident is concerned of age range recommended for the book and says it is pornography. Resident suggests an X-rated section of the library.

Resident request the book be immediately returned and appropriately put on the agenda.

Resident states that the book is age rated 18+ on Amazon and is inappropriate for young children.

Resident notes the stress this has caused town employees and the Library Board of Directors.

Resident states Henrietta Horvay is an exemplary and dedicated volunteer and public servant with decades of service to Goshen.

The book has not been returned as of yet.

Resident expressed concern of slippery slope and book banning. Resident stated that no one will dictate what their child reads.

Resident said that we live in a Democratic society, and we have choices. Parents are responsible for what children read. All people need to be welcomed.

Resident reminds us that Nazi Germany started with book burning.

Resident stated that the process in place was a good one and it is clear. The library is required to follow the State of Connecticut policies and agreed definitions.

Residents expressed their appreciation for the work done by the library board, and expressed concern that the book was not replaced in the library, as the policy states.

Tabitha Guarnieri reported two copies of the book were to be donated and are not here yet. A resident then gave Henrietta Horvay a copy of the book as a donation for the library.

Resident states that there has been much learning about state statutes for libraries which include definitions that are to be used for guidelines.

Resident agrees with age-related restrictions and suggests that if this book is in the library, then many more explicit books may be allowed.

Resident states that there are many explicit titles in the young adult section of the library, and this is the only book targeted to date due to its LGBTQ+ content.

Resident expressed concern about micromanaging of the Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri, and the practical reality of the requests made by the Library Board of Directors.

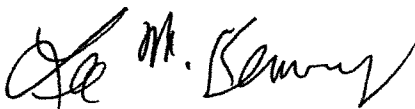
Lynette Miller request that members of the Friends of the Library attend the meetings of the Library Board of Directors.

Resident says book should be in adult content and not because it is LGBTQ. Parents are responsible for what their children read.

Lynette Miller motioned to take a five minute break and was seconded by Anne Green and passed unanimously.

11. **Executive session for performance review.** A motion was made by Johanna Kimball and seconded by Anne Green, to enter executive session at 5:43 pm. Motion to come out of executive session was made at 6:04 pm by Johanna Kimball and seconded by Patricia Sanders. It was voted unanimously.
12. **Any other business rightly before the board. None**
13. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 6:04 pm by Johanna Kimball and seconded by Patricia Sanders. Vote unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024 @ 4:00 pm



Lee M. Kennedy - Clerk

Received Feb. 23 2024 11:20 AM

Attest 
Asst. Goshen Town Clerk

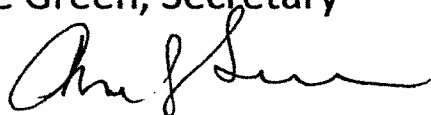
GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

1. Call to Order:
2. Attendance:
Present in the Conference Room board members
Henrietta Horvay, Johanna Kimball, Josephine Jones,
Lynette Miller, Patricia Sanders and Anne Green
3. Motion to go into Executive Session ^{for personnel matters} by Josephine Jones
and seconded by Patricia Sanders at 2:03. Passed by all
present.
4. Motion to go out of executive session at 3:54 p.m. by
Patricia Sanders and seconded by Lynette Miller. Past
by all present.
5. Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:55 by Josephine Jones
and seconded Lynette Miller. Passed by all present.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Green, Secretary



Received Feb. 29, 2024 @ 11:38 AM.

Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk

**Director's Report
Goshen Public Library
February 2024
Held March 20, 2024**

All Programs on Zoom unless otherwise marked.

Programs

- February 5th, Monday – Mark Albertson – 12 patrons
- February 6th, Tuesday – Story Time – 11 patrons (in person)
- February 7th, Wednesday – Story Time – 5 patrons (in person)
- February 10th, Saturday – Great Decisions – 4 patrons
- February 12th, Monday – History Club – 5 patrons
- February 14th, Wednesday – Story Time – 7 patrons (in person)
- February 14th, Wednesday – Valentine's Day Craft – 10 patrons (in person)
- February 19th, Monday – History Club – 5 patrons
- February 20th, Tuesday – Story Time – 8 patrons (in person)
- February 21st, Wednesday – Story Time – 8 patrons (in person)
- February 23rd, Friday – Dungeons and Dragons – 7 patrons (in person)
- February 24th, Saturday – Great Decisions – 5 patrons
- February 24th, Saturday – Perky Pairing – 17 patrons (in person)
- February 26th, Monday – History Club – 7 patrons
- February 17th, Tuesday – Story Time – 10 patrons (in person)
- February 28th, Wednesday – School Visit – 146 patrons/in person (131 students; 15 teachers)
- February 28th, Wednesday – After School STEM Activity – 12 patrons/in person

Hoopla:	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Audiobooks & Music	62	33	29	30	26
eBooks	42	12	11	16	9
Movies & TV	27	8	15	11	6
Kanopy (tickets; previously views):	110	30	44	31	11

Statistics for February	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
General Patron Visits	601	448	519	338	788
Website Visits	2667(1925)	1352 (917)	1378(857)	1571(733)	1502(906)
Computer & WiFi	33	15	16	6	61

Circulation Statistics	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Adult Book Circulation	529	389	406	429	562
YA Book Circulation	26	19	16	6	21
Children's Book Circulation	490	393	422	303	469
Graphic Novels	38	-	-	-	-
Periodicals	35	8	14	42	38
Adult Videos/DVD	22	31	40	57	117
Children's Videos/DVD	20	5	6	10	58
Audiobooks	4	5	14	21	21
Museum Passes	1	5	3	0	2
InterLibrary Loan	51	40	37	41	59
Total Circulation	1216	960	1057	937	1445

Overdrive	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
eBook	147	217	112	57	65
eBook Holds	214	143	109	103	95
Audiobooks	114	88	84	103	99
Audio Holds	133	97	70	74	86
Overdrive Magazines	59	9	2	-	-

Town of Goshen

As of March 18, 2024

	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Expense				
LIBRARY				
5003-21 · Clerical Wages - Library	235.39	668.00	-432.61	35.24%
5810-21 · Books Purchased	10,757.12	17,500.00	-6,742.88	61.47%
5237-21 · Computer Supplies	1,034.59	1,750.00	-715.41	59.12%
5238-21 · Computer Support	5,309.15	7,200.00	-1,890.85	73.74%
5232-21 · Equipment Repair	0.00	250.00	-250.00	0.0%
5220-21 · Legal Notices	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.0%
5001-21 · Library Director	31,875.00	55,000.00	-23,125.00	57.96%
5002-21 · Library Staff Wages	49,283.85	70,486.00	-21,202.15	69.92%
5223-21 · Meetings & Dues	404.50	800.00	-395.50	50.56%
5215-21 · Mileage Reimbursements	36.88	750.00	-713.12	4.92%
5250-21 · Miscellaneous	2.51	75.00	-72.49	3.35%
5211-21 · Office Supplies	664.63	800.00	-135.37	83.08%
5813-21 · Other Media Purchases	2,123.05	3,000.00	-876.95	70.77%
5811-21 · Periodicals Purchased	1,621.73	2,100.00	-478.27	77.23%
5214-21 · Postage	578.00	1,200.00	-622.00	48.17%
5235-21 · Professional Development	200.00	300.00	-100.00	66.67%
5850-21 · Programming	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
5217-21 · Supplies	214.66	300.00	-85.34	71.55%
5812-21 · Videos Purchased	1,663.83	2,300.00	-636.17	72.34%
Total LIBRARY	106,004.89	164,804.00	-58,799.11	64.32%
Total Expense	106,004.89	164,804.00	-58,799.11	64.32%
Net Ordinary Income	-106,004.89	-164,804.00	58,799.11	64.32%
Net Income	-106,004.89	-164,804.00	58,799.11	64.32%

received 3/18/24

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TREASURER'S REPORT
Wednesday March 20, 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:	\$ 5106.87
Deposit Interest	6.93
Credit Interest	.40
The ending balance February, 2024	\$ 5,114.20

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.

Funds Held/Managed by Foundations:

1. Connecticut Community Foundation - Advised Fund - #00382

Funds Balance as of March 31, 2023 and December 31 2023:

The ending balance MARCH 31, 2023 and "Available to Spend" amount is:	\$33,796.36
The ending balance DECEMBER 31, 2023 and "available to spend" amount is:	\$37,166.16

2. Connecticut Community Foundation - Donor Fund - #00443:

Funds Balance as of March 31, 2023 and December 31, 2023:

The ending balance MARCH 31, 2023 and "Available to spend" amount is:	\$ 119.94
The ending balance DECEMBER 31, 2023 and "Available to spend" amount is:	\$131.92

3. Northwest CT Community Foundation as of December 2023:

Ending Fund Balance as of March 31, 2023	\$36,633.70
Ending Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$40,341.42

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

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. Looking at the book in its entirety, I do not find these scenes to be prurient or gratuitous, nor are they obscene as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 52a-193. Rather, they are germane to the main theme of the book, which is the author's journey towards self-understanding and acceptance.

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.

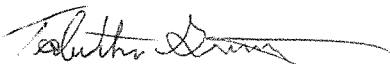
On the note of parental responsibility to accompany/monitor their children’s borrowing, this claim is affirmed in the ALA’s Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors, an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, stating that:

"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.



Tabitha Guarnieri
Library Director, Goshen Public Library
March 12, 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