

Willington Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 9, 2020

- I. Call to Order- Meeting has held online per COVID- 19 requirements. Elena called to order at 6:02 PM.
- II. Roll call- members present- Elena Testa, Joy Wrona, Kathy Ryan, Karenann Caldwell, Sarajeon Park, Deb, Linares and Hope Gove along with others present online. Quorem was present.

"Elena read a resignation letter from the chair, Cari Donaldson.

Dear Board,

As my resignation from the Board has not yet reached the Town Clerk, please accept this email as notice that I am stepping down as Board Chair. This will allow you to hold elections tonight.

Thank you,
Cari"

"Dear Board Members and Directors,

After a very long consideration, I have decided to resign from WPL's Board of Directors. I will be submitting my letter to the town next week, but wanted to give you all the news first.

It is my deeply held belief that the current state of the library cannot be fixed by a board of laypeople, no matter how good our intentions are. I believe that our finances, building maintenance, legal issues, and policies are in such a state that we need to hire outside consultants to fix them. It is simply unfair and unreasonable to ask unpaid volunteers to resolve years of mismanagement via once a month Zoom meetings.

Based on what I know about our town, it is unlikely that the library will ever get the funding to hire such consultants. From what I've seen in my year serving, it is unlikely that our budget will ever be able to pay our hardworking and loyal staff a wage equal to their efforts, let alone hiring outsiders to come right our course. Add to this the legal matters and looming disaster that is the pyrrhotite in the foundation, and I foresee things getting much worse before they get better. Who among us is qualified to handle so many, and such serious issues?

I apologize for jumping ship, as it were, and adding "find 6th board member" to the ridiculously huge workload already facing the Board. I appreciate your hard work, but ask you all to seriously consider my words- can the issues facing the library be solved with the current system?

Thank you all,
Cari"

Karenann expressed concern on whether the board should fill this position during this time. Discussion ensued. Joy made a motion to accept Elena at this time for a period of 2 months (until the next election period in December). Elena accepted. All in favor. Motion passed.

- III. Approval of Minutes- Elena made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 14th and the September 11th meetings. Kathy 2nd. All in favor. Motion passed.
- IV. Interim Co- Acting Directors Report- Elena made a motion to move the Treasurer's and Committee reports to after the Interim C-Acting Directors Report as Joy had to leave the meeting early. Kathy 2nd. All in favor. Motion passed. It was reported that the library has officially re-opened on October 3rd. The crumbling foundation issue is still being looked into. The outside parking lights are not working and are in the process of being fixed. The co-directors have closed a phone account opened by Mr. Rosewell. Mr. Rosewell's name has been taken off all library accounts and checks. The 20-month CD is coming up for renewal and needs to be voted on whether it will be renewed. Karenann made a motion to renew this CD for a 6-month period as the interest was basically the same as the 20-month CD and then the board could re-determine the length at the end of the 6-month period. Joy 2nd. All in favor. Motion passed. Another letter will be drafted and sent regarding the library materials that were taken from the library without permission and need to be returned by a previous employee. Please refer to the Willington Wire for any future library programming. Deb also explained that the ALA has given the Willington Public Library the chance to apply for a Special Grant Opportunity for Small and Rural Libraries. Elena made a motion to approve the library to pursue this grant. Kathy 2nd. All in favor. Motion passed.
- V. Treasurer Report- Karenann reported the amounts in the Berkshire Bank library accounts. Also, line items from the budget were reported on as well as a categorical analysis of expenditure for the months of July 2020 – September 2020. Karenann thanked the hard work and dedication from Deb and Hope on the work they have done reconciling the library accounts.
- VI. Committee Report- Elena made a motion to charge the policy committee to meet as soon as possible for director's responsibilities. Kathy 2nd. All in favor. Motion passed.
- VII. Present To Speak- None
- VIII. Old Business- None
- IX. New Business- None
- X. Board concerns- None

After Joy left at 7:30 PM, the co-directors finished discussing their directors report. The Treasurer also finished giving her report.

XI. Adjournment

Elena made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Joy Wrona
(Secretary)*

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT

Received for record October 19, 2020
At 7:10 pm Rum

TC