

**Town of Chester Library Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18, 2022**  
**Chester Library**

1. **Call to Order:** Linda H. called the meeting to order at 7:01
2. **Roll Call:** Linda Hales, Noelle McCrum, Bob Walp, Greg Gross, Ryan Hutton. Absent: Vanessa Hutton  
**Library Director:** Alma Alvarez  
**Town Board:** Absent  
**Friends of the Library:** Linda Taverni
3. **Approval of the Minutes:** Noelle moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Bob seconded. Passed unanimously.
4. **Director's Report:** — The Library will sponsor two programs: 1) “How to Survive the First semester at College” on May 25 and 2) A reception for artwork by Suzannah Stiems on 5/26/22.  
**Windows:** No window installer is available.  
**Masks:** Alma proposed a revised policy on mask-wearing, given recent spikes in infection locally. Masks would be optional during low rates and required under medium and high rates. Greg moved to accept; Ryan seconded. Passed unanimously.  
**Storytelling:** Mixed attendance— First session had one person; second 10; third none.  
**Employee Compensation ... Leave Policy:** No need for a policy. Memorial Day: Library will be closed on May 30, 2022.  
**Re-appointment:** Noelle moved to re-appoint Ryan in June as a Trustee for 5 years (term: to 6/30/27 ). Greg seconded. Passed unanimously. Ryan moved to re-appoint Noelle in July (term: to 8/1/27 ); Bob seconded. Passed unanimously.  
**Approval of the Director's Report:** Bob moved to accept; Ryan seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. **Tax Lawyer:** Bob moved to hire Linda Taverni at \$200 per hour to gain tax exempt status documented. Noelle seconded. Passed unanimously. Note: Ms. Taverni volunteered to send The Board a Letter of Confirmation.
6. **Resolution on The Open Meeting Law:** It was noted that passage would offer The Board increased options. Greg moved to accept; Noelle seconded. Passed unanimously.
7. **Development Committee:** Greg reported that the school has agreed to publicize “How to Survive... College”; Alma has put info on the Library Website. Linda and Greg will host the event on 5/25/22 at 6:00pm.

8. **Facilities Committee:** The lean-to will be installed in the library May 28-30 in The Children's Room with completion by 6/1/22. Staff member Bill and others will assist. Still seeking furniture.
9. **Physical State of The Library:** Trustees pointed out longstanding messes in the library (e.g., placement of furniture, empty boxes lying around, trash such as a chair that needs removal). After a heated debate over the roles of Trustees' authority in overseeing such issues, Director Alvarez exited the meeting in protest at approximately 8:40 pm.
10. **Policy Committee:** Tabled.
11. **Finance Committee:** Bob suggested increases of \$5,000 to Grants (for SALS window grant), \$1,000 to Programs, per Alma's request), and \$4,000 for The Children's Section. Noelle moved to accept the amendment; Ryan seconded. Passed unanimously.
- New Business:**
12. **New Business: Discussion of Director Alvarez's Letter of 4/28/22 to The Board:** The Board resolved to respond in writing to her letter. Ryan and Vanessa will compose the letter and seek input from all Trustees. Both Alma's letter and the Board's response will be put on the Library Website, as required.
13. **Motion to Adjourn:** At 9:18 Linda H. moved to adjourn; Noelle seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Greg Gross**

**Library Board of Trustees**

**Town of Chester Public Library**