

Town of Chester Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022
Chester Library

1. **Call to Order:** At 6:35 p.m. by Vanessa Hutton
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Vanessa Hutton, Linda Hales, Noelle McCrum, Greg Gross. Absent: Ryan Hutton
Library Director: Alma Alvarez
Town Board: Absent
Friend of the Library: Linda Taverni
SALS: Sara Dallas
3. **Approval of the Minutes for 9/21/22:** Noelle moved to accept; Vanessa seconded. Passed unanimously.
4. **Board Discussion with Sara Dallas:**
 - Per request, Vanessa signed a statement that the bathroom is Open .
 - The Library will receive a state of the art WIFI router if the proposed construction grant is approved.
 - Our monthly contribution to SALS goes to The Joint Animation Project, which funds the Library circulation system and tech support.
 - SALS recommends the Library buy cyber insurance.
 - Beginning 1/1/23, all Trustees must engage in 2 hours of continuing education.
 - Sara warned of potential filming of staff and activities by a group, “First Amendment” and of visits by “Book Challenger,” demanding removal of their chosen books. Sara suggested the Library join United Against Books Bias to protect First Amendment rights.
 - Sara noted that under The Open Meeting Law libraries CAN hold hybrid meetings and that any changes in open meeting policy must first be heard via public hearing. Bylaws must define “quorum.”
5. **Director’s Report: (attached)**
 - The Board reviewed the Library Brochure submitted by Alma, made suggestions, and expressed high praise for Alma’s work.
 - The Board gave Alma permission to close the library if needed for the windows restoration project.
 - Alma reported an increase of patrons for September, 2022 over 9/21.
6. **Friends of the Library Report (L. Taverni)**
 - The Winetasting Event was a great success with 96 attendees; raised \$6,500.
 - The Storybook Walk may require a scaling back (\$12,000 needed in total with thousands short as of now). FOL has received a \$1,000

- grant for a machine that covers books.
- FOL will give children a free book at Rotary Christmas party.

7. Old Business:

A. Board Member Recruitment:

- Vanessa reported no success in recruitment.
- Alma had spoken to 3 candidates for Trustee; all were non-committal. She will follow-up with them.
- Alma will post a sign— “Trustees Needed.”

B. Endowment Access: Alma has “View Only” access.

C. Downhill Derby: No report.

8. Committee Reports:

A. Development Committee: Linda H. reported that:

- i) “Ten Paintings. . .” had 4 attendees, two of whom were high schoolers, who noted they had learned things at the program.
- ii) Frank Shaw will deliver a program on outdoor survival; Stevie Latham remains interested in having a session on the outdoors
- iii) Greg Gross will present “How to Survive Your First Semester in College” in May, 2023.
- iv. Linda H., Linda T., and Alma met to discuss programing and and collaborations for 2023.

B. Publicity Committee: No report.

C. Finance Committee: No report.

D. Facility Committee: Alma will decide whether it is necessary to close the Library during window restoration.

E. Policy Committee: Noelle moved to accept The Unattended Children Policy and The Selection of Materials Policy; Linda H. seconded. Passed unanimously.

9. New Business:

A. 2023 Calendar: Vanessa moved to accept the proposed calendar; Noelle seconded. Passed unanimously.

B. Staff Evaluations: Will take place in November, 2022.

10. Next Meeting: December 7, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment: Noelle moved to adjourn; Vanessa seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Gross**

Library Board of Trustees