

Chester Library Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes: Monday, February 26th, 2024

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**I. Call to Order**

The Chester Library Board of Trustees held a meeting on Monday, February 26th, 2024 at the Chester Public Library. In attendance were Sandy Senior-Dauer, Karin Badger, Susan Wright, Abbi Rice, Jen Rice, and Stephanie Romano, Library Director. Guests in attendance: Cindy Lignar, Chester First Selectwoman and Linda Carlson.

Call to order at 6:03pm by Sandy Senior-Dauer, Chair. Welcome to new appointed board member Susan Wright, in place of Catherine Cahill who resigned.

**II. Secretary's Report**

Motion by Abbi Rice, 2nd by Karin Badger to approve the December 18th meeting minutes as written. Unanimous approval.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

No report. Nomination by Jen Rice for Susan Wright as treasurer. 2nd by Abbi Rice. Unanimous approval.

**IV. Old Business**

- A. Arts and Literary weekend was February 9-11. Less attendance at children's programs than had hoped. Evening adult programs were well received.
- B. Review of G Orton-Jones Trust: Discussed access of funds now managed by Essex Trust. The Library Director and board representative meets quarterly with Essex Trust representatives to discuss the status of funds. Management is much more transparent than previous.
- C. Friends update and April 15th meeting: New Friends of the Chester Public Library group plans to meet Monday, April 15th at 5pm just prior to the library board meeting at the library. Linda Carlson and Donna Moore have agreed to co-chair the reorganization of the Friends. They plan to elect officers and review the by-laws at the meeting. All interested parties are welcome to attend.
- D. Church and parking: Discussed inquiring further about acquiring the library parking lot from the church. The property is currently owned by the church but used by the library. Stephanie to draft a proposal for review by the library board.
- E. Minority trustee still needed: Republican, independent or an unaffiliated voter is able to fill the position.

**V. Librarian's Report**

The Library Director provided the monthly report to board members prior to the meeting. The Park & Rec Director and Library Director have been working together:

- To organize the summer concert series at Cedar Lake in July and August currently sponsored by the Chester Leadership Fund and the Gwen Orton-Jones Trust. Plan to charge a fee per car with half of the proceeds going to the Friends of the Chester Public Library and half to P&R summer camp scholarship fund. They are looking for volunteers to assist with parking.
- To create the Storywalk project at NQP starting this spring.

**VI. New Business:**

- A. Budget 2024 was submitted to the town.

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- B. Plan to discuss Vision statement at next meeting
- C. Discussed the Little Libraries donated by the Chester Community Fund, seem to be well stocked. Potential to add the libraries to the Little Libraries website.

**VII. Audience of Citizens:** No further comments.

**VIII. Adjournment:** Motion by Jen Rice, second by Karin Badger to adjourn at 7:20pm. Unanimously approved. Next meeting: Monday, April 15th at 6pm at the library.

*Respectfully submitted by Jen Rice.*