

Chester Library Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting, April 15, 2019  
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1. Call to Order

The Chester Library Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019, at the Chester Public Library, 21 W. Main Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Denny Tovey, Sandy Senior-Dauer, Peggy Carter-Ward, Terry Schreiber, Karin Badger and Abbi Rice. Library Director Stephanie Romano and First Selectwoman Lauren Gister were also present. Chairman Tovey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Secretary's Report

**Motion by Senior-Dauer, second by Schreiber, to approve March 18, 2019 Minutes amended as follows:**

- Under 4. Librarian's Report, change 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sentence to read, "Hoopla will be up and running mid-May."
- Under 6. Gwen Orton Jones Trust, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence to read, "Karin Badger noted she feels it's impossible to get any information about the Trust." Add new 10<sup>th</sup> sentence to read, "Karin Badger noted those numbers included investment or interest, not solely the expenses."

**Unanimously Approved.**

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carter-Ward noted there was no change in the checking account. She reviewed balances in checking and savings accounts. **Motion by Schreiber, second by Senior-Dauer, to approve Treasurer's Report for 2 month period as presented.**

**Unanimously Approved.**

4. Librarian's Report

Director Romano reported on the following –

- Dominick Bosco and his wife are setting up a demonstration website based on guidelines from Director Romano. This should be ready to look at in a week or so.
- Upcoming Spring Programs – April 20-Rechenkas Eggs, May 11-Paint and Plant flower pots, May 8, 15, 22, 29-Stop motion workshop, May 22-Book chat "The Great Alone, and May 23-Rosie the Riveter talk at Masonicare.
- Budget is still pending.
- No word yet on the Air Conditioner. John Divis is getting an updated estimate.
- Discussion regarding problems accessing Facebook page. We may create a whole new page.

First Selectwoman Gister noted Dominic Bosco is also interested in putting together a proposal for a new Town website using Word Press as the software application.

5. The Friend's Report – No report.

6. Gwen Orton Jones Fund

Chairman Tovey noted he met with Anna Sweeney who reached out to him to see if the Board has any idea of doing a capital project for the existing building. The Trust could give money toward such a project. He told Ms. Sweeney he would discuss it with the Board. First Selectwoman Gister noted technically the Library is to have a subcommittee to decide what to do with the money each year. This year the Board has given money to the Director for whatever she needed. They have also started putting money in the capital budget for paint, shelving, walls, etc. It's building up until the Board decides how to spend it. Chairman Tovey believes the Town should take care of anything for the building.

Karin Badger noted currently there is no renovation plan for the existing building.

Peggy Carter-Ward noted the Board should start planning for the next long range plan. It should go back to the drawing board as there is no new library building.

First Selectwoman Gister noted the Board has no control over what the Trustee gets paid. The only thing the Board has control over is the interest and if the fund would be liquidated.

Sandy Senior-Dauer asked what could the Board do with \$500,000, not much of anything. The Board should have a conversation with Ms. Sweeney and see if it comes up with some ideas, would she approve them. Ms. Sweeney needs to come talk to the Board.

Chairman Tovey noted Ms. Sweeney has no obligation to meet with the Board. She is just the Trustee of the Fund. She has indicated she will not meet with the Board. After a brief discussion, Karin Badger left the meeting abruptly. Chairman Tovey asked if Attorney Klomp ever came to any meetings and the response was no. Terry Schreiber noted the fund was set up so the employees get a small stipend. Chairman Tovey reiterated Ms. Sweeney is the Trustee of the Fund whose interest and income goes to the Town. She does not work for this Board.

It was agreed the Board should look at the long range plan to see if there is something that can be done.

First Selectwoman Gister noted the problem with the new library was that the Library Building Committee was never given a budget. They designed something within the

terms of the grant which was more than just a library. The Board of Finance was stunned with the price tag and wouldn't allow it to go to referendum. She believed the BOF was rightfully concerned about that kind of debt and what it would do to the taxpayer. This year's budget will be extremely painful to the taxpayers, not because of the municipal expenses, but because of the school budget and the ADM numbers.

7. Budget Update

First Selectwoman Gister noted she wasn't sure if a new library project was dead in the water. One issue with the previous proposal was that North Quarter Park had so much site work to be done. This year and next year's budgets will be awful. There has been a suggestion that the old Brooks Factory be used as a new library, but the environmental issues would have to be evaluated.

Terry Schreiber noted more hours are needed for the Children's Librarian in order to keep her. Discussion followed regarding staff and hours. It was noted Ms. Sweeney had indicated the Gwen Orton Jones Trust probably would not be able to sustain that cost. Motion by Schreiber, second by Senior-Dauer, to support a partnership to cover the increased hours in the budget for the Children's Programs. Discussion followed. There was discussion regarding Chester's percentage of the school budget. The motion and second were withdrawn. There was a consensus of members to work with the Town to supplement the hours for the Children's Librarian for increased services.

8. New Business

Peggy Carter-Ward noted the Board should start thinking about an updated long range plan. Everyone should review the old plan which is available on the website. This will be on the next meeting Agenda.

9. Audience of Citizens – no audience was present.

10. Adjournment

**Motion by Carter-Ward, second by Schreiber, to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Unanimously Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary