

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013
MINUTES APPROVED JUNE 12, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m. with Chair Walter Gillette presiding. Trustees present: Marjorie Clarke, Bonita Hansen, Patricia McGarry and David Owen. Also present: Library Director Robert Simon, Head of Technical Services Adam Delaura, and Friends President Sue-Ann Uccello. Trustees absent: Nancy Donoghue, Michael Leonard, and Richard Matos

PUBLIC FORUM: No one from the public was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon a MOTION by Mr. Owen and a SECOND by Ms. McGarry, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2013, were approved unanimously as presented.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Library Director's Report for April 2013 was emailed to the trustees earlier. Tonight, Mr. Simon reviewed the programs, services, statistics, and other news of the last month. The library interior was re-painted during April, the first repainting since 1999. The Children's Room was closed for 5 days while the painters worked in there. In most areas, the repainting caused minimal disruption. Six adult and 6 children's programs were held in April. Heather Baker was back working part-time this month following surgery. Her illness resulted in fewer children's programs. The Friend's Spring Booksale was a success, as was the ninth annual Crossword Puzzle Tournament, which had 25 participants from around the state. The Director pointed out that the circulation statistics continue to decline which reflects a country-wide trend. The Board asked that this issue be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications this month

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS: The operating budget and Gift Fund reports for April 2013 were reviewed by the Director. Upon a MOTION by Ms. McGarry and a SECOND by Mr. Owen, the financial reports for April were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **(a) Friends of the Canton Public Library:** President Sue-Ann Uccello reported that the Spring Book Sale proceeds were good for a relatively small event. The Friends have decided on re-upholstering the Children's Room furniture and, in addition, will buy an extra chair in memory of Susan Bahre. The Crossword Puzzle Tournament was successful, as mentioned earlier. May 18 is the date for the dedication of the granite bench beside the front doors given by the group in memory of Sue Bahre. Trustees were encouraged to attend. The Friends went to the FOCL "boot camp" in April, at which our own Adam Delaura was a speaker. The annual meeting and potluck dinner is scheduled for June 7 at 5:30. Staff and trustees are invited as guests. **(b) Long Range Plan Review Committee:** Did not meet this month. **(c) 100th Anniversary Committee:** We hope to hire The Yale Spizzwinks as entertainers for the day of the anniversary (November 9). Programs are falling into place and tentatively include: a talk on historic barns by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation; *How to Write a Mystery* featuring author Cornelia Read, and a storytelling event using the resources of Connecticut College. The history booklet is taking shape according to Mr. Simon, and Jane Hoben and Greg Kriss are finding pictures to be included. Ms Uccello talked about writing letters to businesses in town for sponsorship/donations.

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OLD BUSINESS: **(a) Changes Effective July 1:** Library cards will be needed for public computer use, and identification will be required if the borrower does not have his/her library card at the time of check out. **(b) Budget Request FY 2013-2014:** A town meeting on May 13 will discuss the budget, which then goes to referendum on May 22. Our teen services librarian request hangs in the balance. **(c) Repainting:** Painting caused the Children's Room to be closed for 5 days, but the public was understanding. The job is finished now and the library looks cleaner and brighter. Not too much disruption for staff and patrons. **(d) State Library Budget News:** The Governor had proposed cuts to many library services at the state level, but the funding for the Connecticut Grant (and this only) has been restored without any reductions through June 2015. Because of state government consolidations, the Connecticut State Library, including its 2 service centers, may cease to be a separate department and will instead be moved under the Secretary of the State's Office. **(e) Professional Reading:** The Director distributed some interesting articles to the trustees: *Don't Burn Your Books -- Print is Here to Stay* from *The Wall Street Journal* and *A Country Without Libraries*, an article by Charles Simic from *The New York Review of Books*.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a motion by Ms. McGarry, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Marjorie Clarke
Secretary