

ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Rita Christopher, President of the Board of Trustees, opened the meeting at 5 P.M. and welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting. Approximately 60 people attended. She gave a short speech citing our motto *Your Community Center for Lifelong Learning and Cultural Enrichment* and talked about all the services the Library offers to the community, and how much the staff and trustees appreciate feedback. She asked for support and pointed out the town of Essex provides us with half our budget and the rest has to be raised by the Association. She thanked Richard Conroy for 11 years of service and welcomed our new Executive Director, Deborah Smith. A full transcript of her speech is in the Annual Report, which was available at the meeting.

Deborah Smith, Executive Director, gave her report on fiscal year 2018 to 2019 under Richard's leadership. She listed the statistics for the Library and pointed out that more than 50,000 people had visited during the year and 64,000 items had been loaned and talked about the wide variety of materials that are available. The Bauman Family Foundation funded the acquisition of four children's computers and Guilford Savings Bank funded the remodeling of the children's non-fiction areas. She also mentioned all the local organizations with which we have a relationship. We have 65 volunteers and the Friends of the Library received state level recognition for their January fundraiser. The Library has twice the statewide per capita attendance at adult programs, and in library visits, print and audiobook circulation and collection turnover. A full transcript of her speech is in the Annual Report.

Michael Hammond, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, thanked the four retiring members of the Board for their service: Larry Athay, Alexandra Johnson, George Sexton, Jane Siris. He announced the Proposed Slate of New and Renewing Trustees for terms of service beginning October 23, 2019 and ending October 22, 2022: Kathy Bonomi (renew), Michael DeLouchry (new), Susan Hosack (renew), Emily Rapp (new), Andrea Schaffner (new) and Hans Ullstein (new, although he served on the Board some years ago). A vote was taken by the Association and the new members of the Board of Trustees were approved unanimously.

At this point the 2018 Board of Trustees adjourned and Rita Christopher called to order the 2019 – 2020 Board.

Michael Hammond then proposed the Slate of Officers for terms of service beginning October 23, 2019 and ending in October 2020: Rita Christopher (President), Kathy Bonomi (Vice President), Howard Tuttle (Treasurer), Sharon Clark (Secretary). A vote was taken by the Board of Trustees and the new Slate of Officers was approved unanimously.

Suzy Baird, representing Friends of the Library, talked about the upcoming Festival of Dinners, a fundraiser to be held on November 2. Participants meet at the Library for a reception at 5:30 PM and then go on to 14 different host homes for a gourmet dinner. The hosts choose their menu but do not know who is coming to dinner. The Friends do not usually present a check to the Library

at their annual general meeting, but Suzy was able to present to Deb on behalf of the Friends check for \$7,500.00, mostly raised from the book sales since July.

Rita then introduced the speaker, Pem McNerney, the Living Editor at Shore Publishing, whose theme was *Covering news on Connecticut's shoreline: the outlook for print in a world of social media*.

The meeting adjourned at 6 P.M. and was followed by refreshments. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, November 20, at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Johnson

Secretary