

GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Minutes of Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

1. **CALL to ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm by Chairperson Henrietta Horvay
2. **ATTENDANCE:** Patricia Sanders, Johanna Kimball, Chairperson Henrietta Horvay, Lynette Miller, Anne Green, Josephine Jones, and Library Director Tabitha Guarnier.

**Excused:** none

**Others:** First Selectman Todd Carusillo - GOP, Scott Olsen selectman - GOP, GOP Town Chairman Tony DeMarco, Members of the Friends of the Library, Anne Kelly,

3. **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

- Patricia Sanders, and Johanna Kimball names misspelled once.
- Anne Green seconded a motion.
- Anne Kelly, Past President of the Friends of the Library.
- Page 2,, rather than attach complete letter.
- Page 3 #8 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph. Miller states that she didn't say that Anne Green motions to accept the minutes as amended, Pat Sanders seconded, it passed unanimously.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes** A motion to accept the amended minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2024 was made by Lynette Miller, Patricia Sanders seconded it and it was voted unanimously to amended as shown above.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – 2 minute limit. (Names and addresses of the public will be held private and will not be part of the published record unless speaking in a public capacity.)

**Re: Gender Queer: A Memoir by Maia Kobabe.** (“...*Gender Queer*, is a critically acclaimed book, having received positive reviews in *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, and *Booklist*... it was awarded an Alex Award by the Young Adult Library Services Association and named a Stonewell Nonfiction Honor Book.”)

Multiple residents discussed an article with what they said were inaccuracies. (Goshen News 13 March 2024 Common Sense, or Censorship? <https://www.goshennews.org/common-sense-or-censorship>)

Anne Kelly states that a letter to the director states support for Library Director Tabitha Guarnier. **All books in CT libraries meet criteria for not being pornography.**

Suggestion that Public Comments be moved to later in the meeting.

**GOP Town Chairman Tony DeMarco claimed the book is pornography. and should not be available. Although the GOP is the majority in town, he said this was the tyranny of the minority. GOP Town Chairman Tony DeMarco suggest holding a town referendum to ask the town if it wants to make pornography available to children**

Miller defined pornography and said in her opinion its pornography and demands it be taken from where children have access.

Friends of the Library (FOL) stated their only Purpose to support the Goshen Town Library. They said the Library Director Tabitha Guarnier should be trusted to do her job. Suggested the FOL and Library work

together. Lynette Miller suggests that the town of Goshen refund the FOL for the website so the town has nothing to do with them..

Resident said they are not afraid of this book and manages what her own the children read. The library is not a daycare. And bending to the will of a certain few (ie: tyranny of the minority). Noted this is being used as a wedge driven between the town Library and the Friends of the Library . Doesn't understand.

Scott Olsen, selectman said he just learned of the problem through Goshen News. Feels that the town is owed an explanation.

Resident stated he was impressed by book. The resident stated that Politics and personal agendas being brought into the Library Board and meetings.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

7. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Library Director Tabitha Guarnieri reports that the library usage statistics are consistent with the past couple of months. General patrons' visits are up. Statistics show visitors and website visits are increasing.

A motion was made to receive the budget to the directors' report by Lynette Miller, Josephine Jones seconded and it passed unanimously.

8. **ACTING TREASURER'S REPORT:**

A motion to receive the report was made by Josephine Jones, Lynette Miller seconded and it passed unanimously.

9. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** None

10. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Per the agenda - Lynette Miller aroused items statements - with prepared documents.
  - Miller orders Tabitha Guarnier to send a letter to each of the complainants and to correct the statute noted in the letter to Connecticut General Statutes Title 53A. Penal Code § 53a-193
  - Miller said she's been questioning the reports and personally thinks it's personal targeting and a matter of proper business.
  - Miller again states the FOL are a private charity with no relation to the Town of Goshen, Ipso facto.. Miller seeks to remove all oversight of any kind to the Library Board.
  - Miller accused Josephine Jones as having purposely did things she doesn't like.
  - Miller accused Tabitha G of thinking that Miller was a terrible terrible person and is failing in her duties.
  - Miller plans to use the following statute to continue to bully and harass TG. Connecticut State Statute Sec. 11-25 Reports by libraries: Confidentiality of records
  - Miller demands an Executive session to admonish Josephine Jones .
  - Miller accuses TG of purposely omitting statutes.
  - Miller Read from statutes to support her point, describing the various sexual acts that a human could perform. Miller suggests removing the book and make it only available digitally.
  - Miller said the Library could terminate all programs where parents are not present.
  - Miller said to place the book on a very High self in Adult only section

- Miller suggests a Dummy book to be placed with note on where the real location is so a taller person could get it.
- **Miller states this censorship is just a little bit. "And if you drive it to Cape Cod, it's basically zero censorship".**
- **Miller states that this is how this meeting is run and if you don't like it don't watch it. This is how sausage is made all across the country.**
- Motion by Johanna Kimbal and a seconded by Pat Sanders to move personal/personnel problems and arguments to executive session.
- Miller berated TG for "laughing". She was not observed laughing.
- TG amended the letter (response to complaints to Gender Queer). Miller said she did not read it. TG clarifies that only one complaint form was "technically" completed, however only 8 of the 50 were not accepted because they were not completed.
- Miller angrily accused TG her of playing a game. Miller refers to the newspaper article as proof.
- Miller interrogates TG again about forms.
- A motion was made by Pat Sander and seconded by Miller to table the acceptance of the three page Library letter until a special executive meeting. The motion passed.
- Library Board of Directors has a new mail box.
- A motioned to approve \$100.00 for membership to the Association of Connecticut Library Boards. Miller motioned to table the discussion until next month. It was seconded by Anne Greene and passed unanimously.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Dawn LaValle, Director at the Division of Library at the Connecticut State Library was cancelled.
- Johanna motions to add to FOL budget agenda seconded by Pat Sander, passed unanimously
- Johana Kimball wants to Invite Jeff Johnson to ask to add to FOL budget agenda seconded by Pat Sander passed unanimously

12. **Any other business rightly before the board.**

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion was made at 5:44 to adjourn the meeting Anne Green , Pat Sanders seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, May 15, 2024 @ 4:00 pm

Submitted by

Lee M. Kennedy - Clerk

Received April 22, 2024 12:42 PM  
 Attest [Signature]  
 Assistant Goshen Town Clerk