

**Watchung Library Advisory Board Minutes
Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Watchung Library Advisory Board is to advise, support and promote the interests of the Watchung Borough Public Library.

Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2016

A meeting of the Library Advisory Board was held this day in the Bicentennial Room of the Watchung Library, 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069.

Call to Order

President Amy Fiorilla called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Present

Colleen Mehegan

Margaret (Peggy) Ellis

Amy Fiorilla

Virginia Hartmann

Eileen Dicken

Maureen Greenbaum

Hannah Kerwin, Branch Manager, Watchung Library

Steve Black, Council Liaison

Keith McCoy, Public Service Director, SCLS

Lauren Ryan, Eastern Area Manager

Absent

Stephen K. Pote, Mayor

Barbara Resko, Superintendent, Watchung Schools

Introduction

This is a meeting of the Library Advisory Board of the Borough of Watchung. This and all other meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Review of Minutes of February 3, 2016 Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed with hard copies distributed. On motion the minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote. Virginia Hartmann will forward the minutes to Michelle DeRocco, Watchung Deputy Clerk, for posting on the town website and will record the minutes for this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Colleen Mehegan informed the Board that the bank balance was \$5,336.52. There were deposits of \$282.20. As reported earlier, checks for \$200.00 were written for the replacement reference desk purchased by Ms. Kerwin and \$100.00 for petty cash, leaving a final balance of \$5,318.72. A larger fish tank may be donated to the Watchung library. It will need a new filter and light bulb at the approximate cost of \$50. The Library Advisory Board discussed whether we should spend not only the \$50 on a new filter and bulb, but if we should continue to have a fish tank which costs approximately \$600 a year to clean. The Watchung library has a history of having a fish tank for at least 40 years. So it was decided that we would do research on finding a person or company who might agree to clean the tank for free since \$600 is not an insignificant amount of money for the Watchung library. Mr. Black said he would contact Petco to see if they were willing to sponsor the tank if we posted a sign that acknowledged their generosity.

Report of Library Branch Manager

Hannah Kerwin reported that many favorable press releases about the Watchung library and its programs have appeared in local newspapers since our last meeting. She passed newspaper clippings around to the Library Advisory Board members.

Ms. Kerwin reported again that a full-time librarian position will be filled in Watchung.

Ms. Kerwin had a lengthy list of problems with the cleaning of our library. There is no notice given as to when the cleaners will be coming, the quality of work is poor, and there has been no response to her inquiries or complaints from Watchung Public Works. Mr. Black said he would bring this matter to the attention of Public Works to get Ms. Kerwin some answers.

Other Business

Amy Fiorilla reported that the Superintendent of Watchung schools declined to attend any Library Advisory Board meetings in 2016 and that no one on her staff agreed to attend in her place. Ms. Fiorilla said she would ask the Superintendent if she would name a parent to represent her at our meetings. We will recommend that Annette von Brandis be that parent.

Virginia Hartmann shared some additional fundraising possibilities for the new library. She is scheduled to have a meeting with a Watchung resident who is a retired professional fundraiser. Ms. Kerwin suggested that all the members of the Watchung Library Advisory Board think about what pieces of the

new library could be sponsored by individuals and corporations. Mr. McCoy confirmed that if Watchung builds a new library, the Somerset County Library System will not help with purchasing shelving or furniture. All these items can be priced out, sponsored and acknowledged with permanent plaques.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 4, 2016 at 3 PM in the Bicentennial Room at the Watchung Library. Peggy Ellis will email a meeting reminder to members prior to the next meeting.

Adjournment

On motion and unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hartmann