

Jan 16, 2020
Agenda A

Watchung Library Advisory Board minutes
November 6, 2019

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

A meeting of the WLAB was held this day in the Bicentennial Room of the Watchung Library, 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey 07069.

President Amy Fiorilla opened and called the meeting to order at 3:41 PM.

In attendance:

- *Amy Fiorilla, President
- *Eileen Dicken, Treasurer
- *Tamara Benc, Secretary
- *Maureen Greenbaum, member

- *Lauren Ryan, SCLS Manager of Branch Services Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects

- *Hannah Kerwin, Watchung Library Branch Director

- *Virginia P. Hartmann

- *Cori Haveson

Minutes from the September 2019 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by President Fiorilla to approve the minutes, seconded by Eileen Dicken. All were in favor.

Treasurer Eileen Dicken provided a report of the credits and debits to the treasury through October.

September balance:	\$ 11,625.95	(off by five cents from the last report)
	-75.00	Aqua Service Professionals (October debit)
	11, 550.95	ending balance

Hannah Kerwin, Watchung Library Branch Director, reported that the start of the painting process of the Watchung Public Library began October 7, 2019, when the painter's truck arrived; borough officials did not communicate to library staff members that workers would be arriving on this day. The children's room emergency exit had to be opened since power washing was taking place near the front door. The entire process took place over the course of approximately three and a half weeks; she took daily pictures of the progress and shared them with the group. There were also carpentry-related repairs that had to be made as well as considerable caulking. Ms. Kerwin characterized the process as a "fine job." The new light fixture near the front door was installed by the Watchung Department of Public Works. It was noted that it has been working well for a few weeks. The light comes on automatically at dusk and goes off at dawn, and Ms. Kerwin considers this "delightful." This results in several hours and days of saved electricity on the lamp, which previously had been on all days when the library is closed, and into the mid-morning on days of regular business. The light has a long-life, low-energy LED bulb (lasting years), and is down-cast to avoid disturbance to wildlife. WLAB members talked about replacing the letters that spell WATCHUNG LIBRARY above the door. They will all be painted black once the hard-to-find/elusive letter W is located (members have gone to several stores in search of a matching letter). The DPW will install the letters when they are ready.

In the absence of Margaret Ellis, Friends of the Library liaison, members discussed the community yard sale that took place October 5, 2019. All agreed that it was successful in more than a monetary way; community members, including candidates for borough council, attended. In fact, the yard sale had been mentioned by more than one candidate at the recent Candidates' Forum held at Valley View School as an example of how to bring Watchung citizens together to collaborate on a community-wide event. Discussion about table rentals for the sale as well as table set-up (which took place at 6 AM on the day of the event) ensued. It was suggested that, perhaps, more than one sale take place per year. A minor concern about donations included a comment about items for sale that did not work. President Fiorilla thanked Allison Baitel, event coordinator; Tamara Benc, volunteer; and the entire volunteer crew for organizing the event.

Lauren Ryan, SCLS Manager of Branch Services Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects, provided a brief update about the state grant guidelines which have been published. The program is now in the regulatory phase; the public comment period is closed. President Fiorilla added that she asked Christopher Korenowsky, Director of Public Services, about the deadline for the grant application, but he had no additional information at this time. All in attendance agreed that there is no downside to applying for a grant. Once the application is actually printed, there will be a firm deadline.

Ms. Kerwin provided details about the upcoming holiday luncheon for volunteers. It will be held on Wednesday, December 11 from noon to 2 PM. The entrees at last year's luncheon were provided by Marino's of Watchung and were well received. Menu choices for this year's event were shared by Treasurer Eileen Dicken. Library staff members as well as volunteers and Borough Council members are invited to attend. The deadline to RSVP to WatchungLibraryAdvisoryBoard@gmail.com is December 6, 2019. Secretary Benc made a motion to spend up to \$250. for the December luncheon and to use local (Watchung) vendors. The motion was seconded by Maureen Greenbaum. All were in favor. President Fiorilla also suggested that an additional volunteer appreciation event be held in May or June which would help recognize those volunteers who cannot attend the annual December event--whether due to work obligations or winter travel. This idea will be revisited at a spring meeting.

The next meeting of the Watchung Library Advisory Board will take place Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 3.30 PM at the library. Today's meeting then concluded at 4:35PM.

Repectfully submitted,
Tamara S. Benc, Secretary