

Watchung Library Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MAY 15, 2024

In-Person Meeting Watchung Council Chambers

WLAC Members Present:

Catherine Leigh, President  
Marianne Candiloros, Secretary  
Manuel Miracle, Librarian  
Ann Koufomihalis - via phone  
Tamara Benc  
Margaret Ellis  
Maria Dahl  
Mayor Ronald Jubin, Liaison  
Paul Fischer, Absent

President Leigh called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Ms. Benc questioned lack of Zoom. President Leigh explained pursuant to advice of Town Counsel Sordillo, there are no more by-laws and no more Zoom requirements. Mayor Jubin explained that the WLAC (formerly known as WLAB) Bylaws were improperly implemented.

Ms. Ellis questioned Ordinance 2-42 that were emailed to her on 5/10/24, stating they were from 2007. President Leigh corrected Ms. Ellis and confirmed the Ordinance 2-24, that was emailed to all WLAC members, was passed on May 2, 2024 by Mayor and Council. Ordinance 2-42 was also handed out at this meeting.

March 13, 2024 Minutes moved by Ms. Dahl and seconded by President Leigh after suggested corrected.

Highlights from Librarian Miracle Report:  
(Full Report was distributed at meeting)

Library staff have worked diligently to move contents of old library to temporary location. Librarian Miracle would like to have a celebration at opening of new location.

\* Writers group met at Wilson.

\* June 15, one-man side show at Wilson. Capped registration at 80.

\* Regular slate at temporary location will include



children programs and adult programs

Nature Program - Lynda Goldschein and Denise Soppas donated seven pairs of new binoculars for birding programs; in the future, potential borrowing by public. Charles Neiss will be leading bird-watching nature program at Best Lake; must be on Borough property for insurance purposes.

Librarian Miracle connected with Brandywine.

Mayor Jubin would like more community involvement with senior citizens especially included in Watchung's Centennial celebration.

Librarian Miracle wants STEAM Lab usage to continue.

Mayor Jubin discussed astronomy and telescopes and expressed his desire for more programs for people to appreciate our environment and to stimulate minds scientifically.

Old Business:

Ms. Dahl will start the Adopt-a-Fish program where families can agree to donate a weekly or monthly donation. Set up a device with stickers for children to choose adoption by a family for a week.

Ms. Dahl will set up at Watchung's Farmers Market on June 5. Inquiries about new library having a larger fish tank, wherein Mayor Jubin explained a larger fish tanks is a more cost effective ecosystem.

A Sign-up Genius was discussed whereby parents can bring children in to draw a picture of fish.

Librarian Miracle doesn't have staff in temporary space to assist with this program.

Ms. Dahl asked if we can accept cash and will advertise on social media's various Watchung platforms.

If Adopt-A-Fish well received, we will apply extra funds for larger fish tank.

Mayor Jubin explained Ordinance 2-42.

Mayor Jubin wants WLAC to focus on bringing new programs to our beautiful new library predominantly.

No more late fines; legacy funds still generate funds from sold books.

Logistics discussed about lack of treasury report. Ms. Ellis wants a treasury report at every meeting.

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Catherine to request expenses and balance from Bill Hance before each meeting to share with WLAC.

Due to work commitments, Councilperson Fischer's need for a new meeting day was discussed. In 2024, the WLAC will hold the remaining meetings on July 15, 2024, September 16, 2024 and November 11, 2024.

Ms. Ellis suggests the temporary library space for WLAC meetings.

Ms. Ellis and Ms. Benc want a subcommittee for Adopt-a-Fish program.

Mayor Jubin will clarify WLAC's monetary authority without needing Council approval.

Ms. Ellis made motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Candiloros.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Ms. Benc wants a vote to adjourn.

President Leigh said vote to adjourn is no longer necessary after Mayor Jubin's explanation of the purpose of this Committee.