



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Library Board Minutes

Regular Meeting

6:00 PM, October 13, 2026

Hamden Government
Center
Second Floor
Conference Room
2700 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7070
Fax: (203) 287-7075

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Pat Sirulnick called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

In Person: Pat Sirulnick, Melissa Canham - Clyne, Phil Kuchuk, Amber Woodward, Jan Glover, Anita

Online: Brett Prestia, Zac Zuber Zander, Marcia Romanski, Alyssa Danshinghani

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

a. [September 8th, 2026](#)

- Pat noted that the December meeting date is 12.14.26 not 12.06.26.
- Jan Glover made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections stated by Pat. Phil seconded the motion.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There will be a brief summary of the correspondence submitted between the last correspondence update and this one. This includes but is not limited to any correspondence with council members that members wish to submit for the record. It can also include written communication to the council from the administration, community members, etc.

Melissa Canham-Clyne read a letter from a school expressing gratitude for the amount of books their students received.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Melissa Canham-Clyne reviewed the Library Administration report and financials for the upcoming Trustee meeting on Tuesday, Oct 13. library community is trying to work with the publishing industry to change the way libraries purchase ebooks

- Ebooks can only be leased at the moment.
- Decrease in personnel salaries due to changes in staff
 - retirement vs entry level new hires
- Increase in programming
 - Better accounting put towards programming
- Increase in cost of delivered goods, decrease in quality of delivery
 - Possible course of action: stop deliveries from private vendor and ask state to take over

Alyssa reported on:

- Staffing
 - Down 22%
 - Hiring for Branch Manager and Librarian One position is moving forward
- Programming
 - 24 adult programs in September
 - 208 teens brought in for the teen department
- Online traction through social media posts

8. MEET THE STAFF

No new staff to meet.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. FOHL Liaison

Anita gave updates on Friends of the Library Week.

- Envelope fundraiser at the library
- Fundraising at Chipotle
- Tabling at the library to encourage membership
- Library advocacy on the Green

b. Personal Board-related Goals

Pat talked about goals in regard to advocating for the library.

- The Commission took turns talking about their goals
- Marcia spoke in depth about different advocacy projects that include fun facts from the Administrative Reports

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Financial update

- Melissa reviewed:
 - The Legislative council passed a rule that only a certain amount of money can be transferred through the town and its entities on a quarterly basis. It appears to be 1st come 1st serve basis. 15K cap for the whole town.
 - Zac provided some clarification of the rule: 15k/quarter w/o Legislative Council approval
 - Brett proposed setting up a recurring monthly outreach to preemptively get on the agenda for the Legislative Council.
 - The Board discussed concerns at large.
- Gift Fund Report: got a lot of money, spent a lot of money
 - Large donation from Wilder Foundation
 - Donation from the Friends to support Fall programming
 - Whitneyville Plants
 - Melissa reviewed administrative expenses
- MUNIS Report:
 - Transfer money into overtime
 - Reducing Library hours for a more sustainable work schedule for staff
- The Board discussed the backlog from staff reduction
- Closed on Thanksgiving and Black Friday

b. Committee Reports

i. Finance

Phil reported that financially, the Board is ahead of all his projections.

ii. Strategic Focus

Melissa gave updates:

- Committee meeting at 9:30am on 10.14.26
- Note takers needed
- Surveyors needed

c. Mission Statement

- Pat reviewed changes from last meeting
- Jan Glover made a motion to approve the Mission Statement created by the Board.
 - Amber seconded the motion.
 - Pat asked if there was any discussion.
 - Marcia proposed the misnomer Library Board of Trustees be named the Library Board.
 - The Board at large disagreed with that change based on how the state of Connecticut views the entity.
- After discussion, all Board members were in favor of approving the Mission Statement with the changes that were made in September's meeting.

d. Unattended Child Policy

Tabled to the next meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Advocacy

Melissa reported on Budget Advocacy and ways to advocate for the library:

- Soft touch example: Zac Zander Zuber asking an acquaintance of the legislative council for clarification on the new budget rule that just passed
- 8 touches for change

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(if recommend by town attorney)

No executive session needed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Phil made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amber seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/play/3Jk0T4ka3EPu4MZ1nNI7ZBin_gPI1Y-Pi9JA2KvmYh9Fdo0gh54_hpAu1sjxZxb9qUQsDqKNodzJps.GyISahj8D1upUSE3?accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=my_recording&continueMode=true&oldStyle=true&pwd=DEqliNoHGtSIAm-pHQAIAAAAAGX-mTllmle_PrmFh_8qtJ91OSltPUBuiltz0s2ox5bIFECQTmfyW1CY0KPcvcJTjAwMDAwNA&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fhamden.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2Fowlr7iwZ1EulKvzCP8Z6-1MSV6hjLXbSkIXxBAb_ebqJV9QmSMifwgg3Dz4YO6At.IPQVUFx-ioGxg3xN%3Fpwd%3DDEqliNoHGtSIAm-pHQAIAAAAAGX-mTllmle_PrmFh_8qtJ91OSltPUBuiltz0s2ox5bIFECQTmfyW1CY0KPcvcJTjAwMDAwNA%26from%3Dhub