



# WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

Warren County Library Commission  
2 Shotwell Drive, Belvidere NJ 07823  
P: 908-475-6320 | www.warrenlib.org

## *Regular Session – May 23, 2024*

*The Warren County Library Commission met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on May 23, 2024.*

*The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Henry Newbold, and upon roll call, the following members were present:*

*Present: Henry A. Newbold, Patricia A. Rokosz  
Alice A. Mollitor, Elizabeth Thomas*

*Administration: Maureen Baker Wilkinson, Library Director  
Jill Butcher, Assistant Director*

*Note: In person and via Zoom combined, there were approximately 45 to 50 attendees.*

*Chairperson Mr. Newbold stated that notice of the meeting had been properly advertised in the Star-Ledger and the Daily Record, and a notice had been sent to the Warren County Clerk's Office.*

## *Minutes*

*On motion by Ms. Mollitor, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the Minutes of the April 25, 2024, regular meeting minutes, were approved, motion carried.*

*Recorded Vote: Mr. Newbold, Yes; Ms. Rokosz, Yes;  
Ms. Mollitor, Yes; Ms. Thomas, Yes*

*Commission Comments & Questions regarding expenditure & program reports - None*

## *Communications –*

*One email of 4/23/24 from Sandy Roberts was included regarding Screen It First; and*

*One letter dated 5/21/24 from Sylvia Zika was included with her attached suggestions for changes to the Small Study Room Policy.*

*Public Comments – Agenda Items – Chairperson Newbold asked if there was any public comments on Agenda items.*

*Martha Hickson, Washington Boro- Detailed her concerns regarding the website, Screen It First.*

*Old Business - None*

*Director’s Report – May 2024 Director’s Report attached*

*New Business - Chairperson Newbold appointed Ms. Mollitor and Ms. Rokosz to the By-Laws Committee.*

*Closing Public Comments - Chairperson Newbold asked if there was any closing public comments.*

*Erin Anderson, White Township- Spoke of her concerns regarding book banning, censorship, and the Screen It First website.*

*Guy Citron, Califon- Commented on the dangers of book banning and the book challenges at North Hunterdon High School.*

*The Closing Public Comments were suspended at this point for a question and answer period with the lawyer hired by the Library Commission.*

*Question & Answer Period with the Library Commission’s Lawyer*

*Douglas Zucker, the lawyer hired by the Library Commission, attended via Zoom. Maureen Wilkinson, the Library Director, asked him questions regarding book banning, censorship, First Amendment rights, and legal definitions of pornography and obscenity that had been submitted by the Library Commissioners.*

*Closing Public Comments (continued)*

*Nicauris Veras, Hackettstown (her written comments were read by Grace Tyler)– Remarkd on the current theme of censorship across the nation that seems to be based on personal morals and controlling others’ views and perceptions.*

*Nicole Walters, Hardwick Township- Commented on the book, Fun Home, and the library being a repository of information available to everyone.*

*Paul Eskola, Allamuchy Township- Spoke of controversial books being important to society and helping individuals figure out their lives.*

Julie Budzinski, Hope Township- Offered compliments about the temporary location in Hope. Commented on the need for children to see themselves in books.

Sandy Roberts, Blaiirstown Township- Expressed the importance of subjective vs. objective decisions when evaluating library books; and the importance for people to feel they belong and finding that at the library.

Sylvia Zika, Blaiirstown Township- Spoke about the contents of her letter to the Library Commission regarding the Small Study Room Policy.

Brie Devlin, Hackettstown – Spoke of her personal experiences growing up and the need to have access to diverse and informative books in libraries.

Robin Jensen, Georgia (former White Township resident)- Commented on allowing library professionals to use their education and knowledge to select books and determine their locations; using the catalog to look up subject headings; and allowing parents to determine their families' reading materials.

Caitlin Kosciolk, Blaiirstown Township- Expressed her support of protecting readers' First Amendment rights and offering more diverse books in the library's collection.

Executive Session – None

### Adjournment

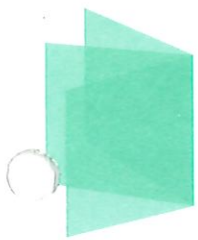
There being no further business, Ms. Mollitor made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rokosz; the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. to be held at the Richard D Gardner Branch of the Warren County Library with a virtual link also available on the Library website calendar.

Attested to:



Alice A. Mollitor, Recording Secretary



# WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

## Director's Report - May 2024

The Hope location was significantly affected by several days of internet instability earlier this month; however, the County IT department fixed the issue. The Hope location now offers public computers, printing, copying, faxing, and scanning, as well as library materials checkout and return. They will also be offering a modified Summer Reading program this summer.

Unfortunately, we have experienced a recurrence of the issue with the VPN connection used for payroll and bills for payment. Despite the County IT department's initial fix, the problem has resurfaced. As a temporary measure, our administrative team is again entering data into the system at the County Finance Department. We have reported the issue to the County IT department and are currently awaiting their response or action.

The County's electrician was in the building in early May and told us he would work on the wiring and light switches at the Richard D. Gardner Branch. We have requested modifications to the lights in the meeting room so we can adjust the lights in areas of the room (e.g., turn off the lights by the screen for better viewing of projected content). The electrician has been in a couple days this week but we don't have a status as of now.

We have spent time troubleshooting our Study Room Booking software. Initially, we thought it was an isolated issue with a member's library account; however, once another member reported the same booking issue, we immediately shifted our focus to the booking software. The issue was unusual since the staff software was unaffected, and some users had no issue with booking a room. I spoke to one person who frequently booked and managed his study room reservations online and had not reported any issues. They confirmed that they had no issue with the software and expressed that they liked using the software and receiving confirmation about their reservation. We confirmed settings with the vendor and, through many tests to try to duplicate the issue, discovered a way to reproduce the issue. The vendor had also been working on the issue, and once we could demonstrate the problem, the software developer could start working on a fix for the bug. The vendor hopes to resolve the issue by the end of the week.

Staff are gearing up for the start of Summer Reading in June. The staff had completed most of the planning before our Children's Services Librarian, Lina Crowell, retired. We have made a job offer to a candidate for the Children's Services position and expect to have a Librarian in the position in July. We are currently finalizing the start date and will keep you updated on the progress.

We are also interviewing with the intent of moving up to two part-time library assistants to full time to fill approved vacancies. We have a number of employees interested in the positions and will interview all staff who have indicated interest in the positions.

Submitted by:

Maureen Baker Wilkinson  
Library Director