



# Bethel Public Library

*Be curious. Be enlightened. Be inspired.*

Meeting Minutes  
BPL Board of Directors  
Virtual Meeting  
Monday 01/25/2021 at 6:00 pm

**PRESENT:** Chairman Tia Murphy, Judith Schlemmer, Robin Kahn, Connie Kauffman, Linda Curtis, Robin Grubard, Mary O'Leary, Terri Rotella, Sue Morton, Mary Spain, Chris Sell, Ted Stevenson, and Library Director Megan Dean.

**Call to order:** Chair Tia Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Director Dean reported that the Library received a proposal for a Memory Bench from resident Deb Clelland to be installed on Bethel Library property. Director Dean spoke with Ms. Clelland to ask her to send a written proposal for the Board to review. After a discussion with Chair Murphy on how to proceed, Director Dean invited Ms. Clelland to attend the February BPLBOD meeting to present her proposal and entertain questions from the Board Members. Director Dean emailed the proposal to the Board.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF December 14, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:** Chair Murphy asked if the members had read the minutes, and if there were any questions; none. Chair Murphy asked for a motion to approve the December 14 meeting minutes. Linda Curtis moved to approve the December 14, 2020. Minutes. Ted Stevenson seconded the motion. Chris Sell and Ted Stevenson abstained. All others in favor; motion passed.

**TREASURER REPORTS:** Treasurer Morton asked if the members read the Treasurer Reports for both November and December and if any member had a question. No questions, so Treasurer Morton asked for a motion to approve. Terri Rotella made the motion; Linda Curtis seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**FRIENDS OF THE BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY:** FOL Chair Jan Patzold was unable to attend but sent her report to Chair Murphy, who reported that the Friends kept the same slate of officers as last year, because they had to cancel so many meetings. Friends reminded members that their memberships for 2020 have been extended through 2021. The Friends are taking on sponsorship of the Story Walk.

**DIRECTOR UPDATE:** Library Director Megan Dean began by asking the Board if they had any questions regarding the monthly spending budget or any of the use statistics. Director Dean reported that usage of the various virtual and curbside services continues to increase over time. The Bag of Books program for

Children and Teens has been very well received by the public and is now being offered to Adults as well. This should increase the Adult usage statistics as well.

Director Dean reported that the Library was closed to the public other than appointments for computer usage in the Parloa Room, which follows all COVID -19 Protocols. AARP Tax Aide has not yet solidified plans for conducting in person 2020 tax year filing assistance at the Library but hopes to have something to report by the February meeting.

Director Dean stated that she and Chair Murphy met in person with the First Selectman and Comptroller to review the Library's proposed 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. They were pleased with the zero-increase budget and indicated that the budget review with the Bethel Selectmen and Finance Committee will be in February, date to be determined. Director Dean indicated that the meeting will be virtual. Details will be shared with the Board as soon as it is available. Chair Murphy asked fellow Board Members to attend if possible, as support for the Library is important.

There are no plans at the moment to reopen the Library to the public other than the Parloa Room appointments. She observed that the surrounding Libraries of Danbury, Redding, and Brookfield are also closed, only Newtown has remained open.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Chair Murphy, who was also Chair of the Nominating Committee, called for a motion to vote on the slate of candidates approved at the December meeting. The approved slate: Chair – Mary O'Leary, Vice Chair – Connie Kauffman, Secretary – Sue Morton, Treasurer – Tia Murphy. Connie Kaufman made the motion.

Chair Murphy asked if there were any alternate candidates from the floor. Receiving none, Chair Murphy called for a vote on accepting the slate. All in favor, the new officers were elected. Chair Murphy passed the meeting and the Chair over to Mary O'Leary.

Chair O'Leary thanked the past chair for her efforts. The Board gave a round of applause. Chair O'Leary asked for the Director and the Board's support and indicated that Committee assignments will be forthcoming.

**SELECT PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Chair O'Leary informed the Board that at this time, there are no personnel related issues requiring an executive session, and no other issues to discuss. Chair O'Leary indicated that this was a placeholder on the agenda so that if there were issues to discuss, there was a place on the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair O'Leary asked for a motion to adjourn. Terri Rotella moved to adjourn; Connie Kaufman seconded. All in favor, motion passed unanimously. Chair O'Leary adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tia Murphy,  
Treasurer