

## Willimantic Public Library Board Minutes

**Date:** June 21, 2016

**Attendance:** Judd Ayer, Chair; Delia Berlin; J. Drusilla Carter, Director; Olga Ezis; Denise Flores; Harrison Judd; Merle Potchinsky

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ayer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Citizens and Delegations:** None

**Minutes:** May meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously passed as amended.

**Reports:** Director's report of activities for May 2016 was presented and reviewed. It's been a reasonably quiet month. Mental health staff training was helpful. The approach to weeding out books in the Adult Department was clarified.

**Old Business:** Construction Update: Director Carter was pleased to report that a number of adjustments have now brought the renovation within budget. A combination of strategies, such as selecting cheaper finishing options, refinishing furniture at the prisons, and potentially repainting shelving at Windham Tech, will allow for all the essential aspects of the renovation to take place.

**New Business:** Summer reading: 43 children are registered, with participation slower than previous years. A combination of factors, such as school schedules and weather may be responsible. Budget update: Due to State budget cuts, high speed internet access may now cost approximately \$150 per month. This charge was not anticipated when the budget was recently submitted to the Town, but it's still heavily subsidized and could be absorbed. However, at this stage the information is "rumored" and not confirmed.

Another budget concern revolves around a recent proposal brought up to the Town Council, to rename the library in memory of Mary Lou DeVivo. This proposal would require numerous costly formal changes, such as updating printed materials, internet domain, and barcoding of approximately 60,000 items. Although not thoroughly priced, costs could potentially reach \$150,000. There is also concern about loss of name recognition of the Willimantic Public Library, after four years of hard work in "branding" within state and national circles. Recognizing Mary Lou DeVivo's generous, practical and unassuming nature, the Board discussed possible alternatives that would honor her legacy without draining resources from her beloved community. Two main proposals were raised: 1) name the children's department (Mary Lou's passion) after her; 2) name the building that houses the library "Mary Lou DeVivo Memorial Building" and display the designation prominently in the façade, which would do the honors without the additional administrative costs. Chairman Ayer will draft a letter from the Board to the Town Manager and Town Council, and perhaps also approach them to share Board's concerns.

The Board extended appreciation and best wishes to Olga Ezis for her many years of dedicated service. Olga is moving to Tolland and this is her last meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Delia Berlin, Co-Secretary*