

TOWN OF STONINGTON

152 Elm Street • Stonington, Connecticut 06378

BOARD OF FINANCE

LIBRARY SUBCOMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING

TOWN HALL 1ST FLOOR MEETING ROOM

4:00 PM Wednesday, October 11, 2018

Board of Finance Members in attendance: Danielle Chesebrough, Lynn Young and June Strunk

Town Staff- Director of Finance James Sullivan

Members of the Public: Allegra Griffiths (Co-President of the Board; SFS); Belinda DeKay (Director of SFS); Micayla Hall (Assistant Director of SFL); Bridgette Hopkins (Executive Director of Westerly Library); Roberta Donahue (Interim Director of Mystic and Noank Library)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

Comments from the Public: All three libraries had representatives at this meeting and shared their insights on the challenges libraries face in terms of sustainable funding models and how their libraries operation.

The discussion among those in attendance focused on ensuring the Board of Finance better understood the libraries current operations and funding. Items of note during the discussion included:


- Westerly and Stonington both track usage hours. Summer is the busiest with the summer reading program.
- Westerly and Mystic and Noank Libraries have significantly larger endowments than the SFL.
- The State of CT give the CT libraries \$147, whereas RI gives \$318,00.
- All three libraries agreed that they do not think they compete for users or funding. They see people use all three and donate to all three.
- While not all people use the libraries, they emphasized the importance of libraries as an equalizer and as an investment in the community.
- In terms of fundraising, the annual appeal goes out to everyone that uses each library.
- Often the libraries see that it takes time to have people give back, over time they use it and then give back later on.
- Discussed the potential of fundraiser that aim to capture more people but lower dollar amounts, such as a trivia night, art projects, dine for dollars and family nights.

- Most in the room agreed, that people are not aware how little the town provides to the libraries and many are not aware they are not municipal libraries, so may be more interested to donate if they knew more.

In outlining the next steps to prepare for next meeting, it was suggested attendees think about the following: calculate the value of volunteer hours at the libraries, additional outreach campaigns, and consider potential use of 'voter approved taxes' for library funding.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Chesebrough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Chesebrough
Acting Secretary