

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
January 27, 2025

INDEX

Members joining in person:
Allen Hoffman

Members joining via Teams:
Judge Henry Cohn, Claudia Jalowka, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Scott Matheson, Sandy Ruoff, Sally Whipple, Sheri Szymanski, Betsy Pittman, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Mary Etter

Members absent: none

Others joining in person:
Deborah Schander, Suzanne Kiss, LeAnn Power, Nicole Besseghir, Nicole Marino, Jane Beaudoin (CSL), Susan Muro (CTH)

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by Chair Allen Hoffman. Jane Beaudoin took roll call attendance of board members. No attendance of the members of the public attending the meeting was taken.

MINUTES

Melissa Hickey provided the complete name of the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities which she referenced at the last meeting for correction in the minutes and Mary Etter corrected a typo. It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Szymanski) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2024 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED WITH REVISIONS. PASSED with one abstention (J. de Perio Wittman).

MINUTES
Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BOARD COMMENTS

None at this time.

BOARD COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah referred everyone to her written report for a full list of activities and highlighted several items. She presented a few photos of the Charter as it returned to the State Library after completion of its conservation work. It showcased the effort that went into getting the Charter back into the building; the case itself provides multiple safety measures for the Charter and weighs nearly a ton. The team from the Firelock company constructed the case and assisted with getting the Charter in and out of the building.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

An event to showcase the Charter’s return and conservation work is being planned for February 4. The public is invited to come to the museum from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. that day to view the Charter, newly created reproductions, and other objects and documents from the Museum and Archives collections. Information about the event has been released to the press. We will also have an invite only viewing of the Charter from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.; we have already received about 30 registrations to attend from legislators, leaders of other agencies, and members of the cultural and history community. The Lt. Governor will be attending and providing remarks. Deborah asked members of the Board who are planning to attend the event to please register so that we can keep track of everyone coming. Deborah credited Lizette Pelletier and the Archives team, Jenn Matos and the Museum team, Dir. Of Operations Jay Yasensky, and many others for a successful process.

The State Library has begun the process of transporting items from the Van Block facility over to the Rocky Hill facility in preparation for the final upgrade of the Archives at the Van Block facility. This will continue for several weeks. The State Library has received final approval from the Department of Administrative Services for a space study of the Rocky Hill campus to include the State Archives facility. We anticipate that study will take about a year to complete.

Deborah also reported that she sits on the Board of the Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society and in the interest of the Archives, the exhibit that we’re preparing for the America 250 commemoration, the Charter conservation, and other efforts, they would like to partner with us on programming and events. We are in early conversation for the State Library and Museum to host the Supreme Court Historical Society’s Fall program. This will be an opportunity for members of the bench and bar to visit the State Library and see items in our collections. Deborah will keep the Board posted as plans evolve.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

There were no reports at this time.

OTHER REPORTS

External organizations

No reports from external organizations were received.

Divisions and Units – Public Records Administration

Deborah introduced Public Records Administrator LeAnn Power, Public Records Analyst Nicole Besseghir, and Electronic Records Analyst Nicole Marino. The Public Records staff gave in depth information covering the Office of the Public Records Administrator’s key functions, including Records Management Program, Records Storage, Grant Administration, and Electronic Records initiatives. Sheri Szymanski stated that she recently completed a large records purge at her library and was very impressed with how quickly the Public Records office returned their paperwork. Betsy Pittman stated that in her job she works with the Public Records staff daily, and she finds them very knowledgeable and they help make her work a lot easier. Allen thanked the Public Records staff for their presentation.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

OTHER REPORTS

External Organizations

Divisions and units
Public Records Administration

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items on the Consent Agenda at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update

Deborah stated that the Governor's budget will be released on February 5 which is when we'll learn which of our requests will be negotiated between the legislature and Governor's Office this session. Deborah reminded the Board that budget submissions for the State Library's needs were staffing, capital requests, and materials needs. We also coordinated with the Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS) for requests to replace the ATLAS system and other technology-related needs. We understand that the agency's hearing with the Appropriations Committee will either be the week of February 10 or the week after. Deborah will have time with the Appropriations Committee to talk about our budget on that day.

Legislative Update:

The General Assembly has already seen over 2,000 bills filed this legislative session. So far a few may impact the State Library or its statutory responsibilities. There have been several bills related to book banning and censorship, and we anticipate bills on ebook legislation will be reintroduced. There is also a bill related to funding of public libraries and a proposal to study into funding gaps and possibilities for efficiency and sustainability. Deborah will be reaching out to that bill's sponsor for a preliminary conversation on the topic.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:20 p.m. it was MOVED (M. Etter) THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update

Legislative Update

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion