

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
May 19, 2025

INDEX

Members joining in person:
Mary Etter, Allen Hoffman

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

Members absent:
Claudia Jalowka, Sally Whipple

Others joining in person:
Deborah Schander, Suzanne Kiss, Dawn LaValle (CSL)

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chair Allen Hoffman. Deborah Schander took roll call attendance of board members. No attendance of the members of the public attending the meeting was taken.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Szymanski) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2025 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED. PASSED unanimously.

MINUTES
Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BOARD COMMENTS

Allen congratulated Mary Etter on the recent renaming of the South Windsor Public Library as the Mary J. Etter Public Library. Sheri thanked Deborah and the CSL team for their communications, patience, and guidance through the Federal funding situation. Sally, via email, thanked the Museum, Reference, and other CSL staff for coordinated efforts at the recent Ticonderoga event and History Day as well as their assistance to CT Democracy Center staff during a recent research visit. Allen highlighted Senator Tony Hwang's op-ed in the *Hartford Courant* about IMLS funding and its impact in Connecticut.

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 recent agency activities. She then provided the Board with an update on the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Connecticut was notified that its Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant was reinstated for Federal Fiscal Year 24, and that it would receive an FY25 award under the program as well. To date, all states have received 50% award notices from IMLS for FY25, with the remainder of the award anticipated to be added after federal budget office

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

approval. A preliminary injunction has also been issued in the multistate lawsuit against IMLS. We are still within the window for compliance, but it is anticipated all IMLS staff will be returned to their positions and all grants be restored. We remain cautious regarding the future of federal funding, however, as the President's proposed budget for FY26 (beginning October 1, 2026) calls for the full elimination of IMLS. There has been a great deal of media coverage about IMLS and its impact on Connecticut, all of which helps raise awareness. The agency continues to communicate regularly with the Office of Policy and Management, the Attorney General's office, the Governor's office, our federal delegation, state elected officials, and others to ensure the most accurate information is known and shared during this period of uncertainty.

The Archives shelving project continues to meet with bureaucratic delays, but we move forward as possible.

The Museum is wrapping up its Planning Grant, funded by Connecticut Humanities (CTH) via the Connecticut Heritage Foundation, and has submitted an Implementation Grant application to CTH for the Connecticut's Revolution exhibit. Additional fundraising and support will be needed, with or without a CTH grant.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

There were no reports at this time.

OTHER REPORTS

External Organizations

Two written reports from the Association of Connecticut Library Boards and Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) were included in the Board packets. CLC Executive Director Ellen Paul answered a question from Mary Etter about an upcoming media training series.

Divisions and Units – Digitization & Digital Collection Services

Deborah welcomed Digitization & Digital Collection Services Unit Head Anna Newman to the meeting. Anna summarized the recent merger of the Preservation Office and Photo Duplication department into one unit which reflects the changing nature of their collective work. She then gave in-depth information about the unit's key functions to the Board, walking everyone through their processes, from identifying objects to digitize, scanning them, uploading them to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA), adding them to the catalog, and project wrap up. She also highlighted several recent projects, both those supported with agency funds and those with external funds and/or participants. The Board thanked Anna for her report and asked several questions related to the cost of equipment and keeping current with technology.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

OTHER REPORTS

External Organizations

Divisions and Units
Digitization & Digital
Collection Services

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS
Budget Update

The legislative session is nearing its close. CSL was pleased to see its asks for law materials and a museum inventory were included in the Appropriations Committee's budget as well. The state budget is under final negotiation. Currently, we are anticipating a "normal" budget to be set for July 1, followed by a Special Session in the Fall to address the federal funding fall out.

Legislative Update:

The eBook bill has passed both the Senate and House and will now be transmitted to the Governor for his signature. The version which passed includes "trigger" language, so the bill would not go into effect until a state or states with an aggregate of 7 million population also pass a substantially similar bill. Bills related to library policies and other matters impacting CSL remain open for debate and discussion at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:01 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, July 28, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Legislative Update

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT
Motion