

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
STATE LIBRARY BOARD  
July 28, 2025

INDEX

Members joining in person:  
Allen Hoffman, Scott Matheson, Sheri Szymanski

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

Members absent:  
None

Others joining in person:  
Deborah Schander, Matt Geeza (CSL)

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The meeting was called to order at 1:07 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 (S. Szymanski) seconded (S. Matheson) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2025 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED. PASSED unanimously with two abstentions (C. Jalowka, S. Whipple).

**MINUTES**  
Motion

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was needed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Judge Cohn congratulated Mary Etter on the recent renaming of the South Windsor Public Library as the Mary J. Etter Public Library. Sally recommended to Board members the CT-N recording of Deborah's recent discussion with State Historian Andy Horowitz, which she found both personally beneficial and beneficial to her staff. Mary, Sandy, and Allen congratulated Jane Beaudoin on her recent retirement, speaking with appreciation of their long-standing work with her on behalf of the agency.

**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 highlighted several recent initiatives. CTLAB staff have continued to engage in outreach efforts, most recently holding 10 sessions for more than 100 individuals at health fairs, senior centers, physician meetings, and support groups as well as continuing their regular newsletter, book club, and other efforts not only to provide services but increase awareness of CTLAB with eligible patrons. CTLAB is an example of agency work which could be impacted by cuts in federal funds, both to the Institute of Museum and Library Services

**STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

and the Library of Congress. Deborah also commended Kym Powe on efforts related to this year's Governor's Summer Reading Program. This year's program aligns with the Governor's interest in getting students to put down their devices and get outside. Kym created reading lists, reading-related family activity suggestions, and a BINGO card for kids and families to enjoy together. Deborah also congratulated Jenn Matos and the Museum of Connecticut History staff/the Connecticut Heritage Foundation for their recent \$32,500 grant award from CT Humanities to support the new CT's Revolution exhibit, planned to open on July 4, 2026. Without dedicated state funding, mounting the exhibit will require grant, private, and corporate donations. Agency staff are currently planning a joint fundraiser with the Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society and pursuing other funding opportunities.

**REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES**

There were no reports at this time.

**OTHER REPORTS**

External Organizations

A written report from CT Humanities was included in the Board packets.

Allen commended the Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) on their recent annual meeting and successful organization.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Items on the Consent Agenda: There being no objections, the consent agenda was MOVED (M. Etter), seconded (S. Ruoff), and PASSED unanimously.

The item on the consent agenda was:

Recommended Appointments to the Connecticut Library of Accessible Books (CTLAB) Advisory Committee (SLB DOC 25-3)

**OLD BUSINESS**

Budget Update

Deborah discussed the financial report for state-appropriated funds, noting that some final year-end numbers may change as the report was created amidst fiscal close processes. She highlighted the ending balance in the agency's Other Expenses line: even with extremely cautious spending, \$277 remained for operating costs at the end of the year. She reminded the Board that this account includes multiple appropriations which are earmarked for external organizations such as public libraries and literacy non-profits as well as all agency operating expenses, and which masks the true state of funds for CSL operations. Utilities costs also continue to rise, with one recent monthly bill for the 231 facility above \$30,000 as an example. The agency has and will continue to highlight these concerns to Office of Policy and Management budget staff.

Deborah then provided an update on the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and federal funding for libraries. While Connecticut's Grants to States funding for FFY25 was reinstated and an FFY26 award notice has been

**REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES**

**OTHER REPORTS**  
External Organizations

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**OLD BUSINESS**  
Budget Update

received, deeply concerns remain about the potential loss of federal funding by October 1, 2026, if not sooner. The relevant federal House Appropriations Subcommittee will take up this question in September. Meanwhile, Connecticut anticipates a Special Session of the General Assembly in either September or October.

Finally, Deborah provided an update on draft findings of the agency's recent biennial audit. The draft findings were related to the Museum, grant monitoring, and accounts receivable practices. The agency continues to develop and refine procedures and best practices in these areas. The draft findings also highlight several known gaps, such as an increased need for a dedicated grant administrator, a Museum inventory, and updated collections appraisals.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution for Lizette Pelletier (SLB DOC 25-4): It was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (S. Ruoff) that the State Library Board issue the resolution in recognition of Lizette's retirement. PASSED unanimously.

Appointments to Nominating Committee: Chair Allen Hoffman appointed himself to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Appointments to Bylaws Committee: Chair Allen Hoffman appointed Jessica de Perio Wittman, Mary Etter, Scott Matheson, Sheri Szymanski, and Sally Whipple to serve on the Bylaws Committee.

The Board unanimously approved all appointments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:48 p.m. it was MOVED (S. Szymanski) THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Monday, September 29, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah Schander, Secretary

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**  
Motion