Present: Lisa Karim, Director of Simsbury Public Library; Kathleen Miller, Chair of Library Board of Trustees; Polly Rice, Vice Chair of the Library Board of Trustees; Greg Golinski, President of the Friends of the Library; Dave Blume, Tolly Gibbs, Mary Glassman, Linda Johnson, Holly McGrath, and Mark Orenstein.

Absent: Susan Rubenstein

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the addition of E-Book Legislation to the agenda. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 7, 2022

MOTION: Ms. Glassman made a motion to the accept the minutes for the February 7, 2022 meeting as recorded. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Blume abstained because he was not present.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No public audience was present.

Ms. Rice welcomed Mr. Dave Blume and Mr. Mark Orenstein to the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications.

FRIENDS REPORT

Mr. Golinski reported that the Friends were able to meet in person last week.

He stated that there will be an author discussion on April 4th via Zoom, and in May there will be the annual author luncheon held at the Hopmeadow Country Club.
He also mentioned that the Friends will be purchasing a dishwasher for the Library.

CHAIR REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Karim reported that the Carol Stoeke ballerina statue has arrived and will not be needing plexiglass.

The Library continues to be down four full-time staff people due to medical leave, maternity leave, and the vacancy in the Business and Career Center Coordinator position, which is still being recruited for. The Children’s Department is short one part-time position and they are recruiting to fill that.

The Library is looking for a grant for a vehicle charging station and Ms. Karim is working with Public Works on that but would also need this to go through the Friends. Mr. Golinski commented that it would need to be a 501 (c) (3).

The Adult Services Department and Teen Services would like to get a fire pit for the front lawn and the Library would need approval from the Fire Marshal, and the Boy Scouts would be on site to maintain it. Tom Roy agreed to build a surface to put it on.

PICK-UP LOCKER RIBBON CUTTING – Thursday, March 31, 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Orenstein offered to film a video of the ceremony so it could be put on the Simsbury Public Library Facebook page.

BIKE REPAIR/MAINTENANCE STATION

Ms. Karim reported that the Library received a grant from Social Services from the Youth Service Bureau Funds. There could be a kickoff event with the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee to present the Book Bike, the Bike Repair Station, the solar chargers on the front lawn benches, and the Pollinator Pathway Garden.

BIKE FRIENDLY BUSINESS SURVEY

Ms. Karim reported that the Library is applying to become a bike-friendly business and a part of the application is a community survey, which is available on simsburylibrary.info.

FRIENDS ANNUAL LUNCHEON STAFF TICKET RAFFLE

Ms. Karim reported that many years ago the Board voted to fund two seats at the luncheon for staff members.
MOTION: Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the raffle for two Library staff members to attend the luncheon. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION – Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 P.M.- 8:30 P.M.

CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM STATEMENT AGAINST CENSORSHIP

Ms. Karim reported that a part of the Library’s materials selection policy is the Library’s endorsement of ALA Freedom To View Statement and the ALA Bill of Rights.

MOTION: Ms. Glassman made a motion to accept the Simsbury Public Library endorsing the Connecticut Library Association Intellectual Freedom Statement Against Censorship. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN – Monday, April 25, 6:00 P.M.

Ms. Rice reported that Library Board of Trustees Chair Kathleen Miller will be presenting.

BUDGET FY 2022-2023

Ms. Karim reported that the Library is still trending under spending because of the position vacancies.

Ms. Rice inquired what category the Business and Career Center Coordinator gets its funding from. Ms. Karim responded Library Adult/Young Adult Full Time.

Ms. Karim reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the budget last week and they will be presenting to the Board of Finance March 22nd.

E-BOOK LEGISLATION

Ms. Karim reported that public libraries pay six times more than the general public for eBooks and audio books, and after licensing expires in two years, they have to repurchase them. This is not equitable. States are trying to pass legislation that would make access and licensing more equitable, but it is not getting passed because publishers are approaching it from a copyright perspective. CT is approaching it from a contract law perspective. All of the Connecticut libraries, along with the Connecticut Library Association, are working on talking points. The legislation has come out of committee and is being sponsored by Senator Wong. She would appreciate it if we could contact Connecticut State Representative John Hampton and Connecticut State Senator Kevin Witkos to make them aware of this issue and ask for their support of the legislation.
STRATEGIC PLAN

Not needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

Ms. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Blaze
Commission Clerk