

**Sustainability and Resiliency Section Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 2pm**  
Google Meet <https://meet.google.com/ttm-jzwh-jxi>

**Present:** Larissa Brookes, Emily Abramenko, Cara Berg, Lizzie Lathman, Lisa O'Shaughnessy and Mary Catherine Sudiak.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03. Larissa asked for a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes. Mary moved the motion and it was seconded by Lizzie. All members in attendance approved the minutes.

Larissa then asked if anyone had signed up for the Northeast Summit on Climate Adaptation for Library Facilities on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Mary indicated that she had registered. Larissa then encouraged members to attend.

A discussion regarding supporting each other and our efforts was the next agenda item. Larissa mentioned that she has reached out to her fellow staff members for support but backed off as she decided she would reach out to community members to see if they were interested. Lizzie mentioned that education is a big component. She spoke about how towns have different recycling rules. She also mentioned Trex<sup>®</sup> recycling and how at the previous library at which she had worked, Leonia, they had recycling for plastic film. Mary mentioned that the Cranford Conservation Center has a bin for recycling plastic film for Trex<sup>®</sup>.

Emily commented that she wonders what has happened to the recycling initiative. She specifically noted the weeding of books and whether libraries are really trying to recycle. She noted that there are those that try to recycle items to use in craft projects. Larissa commented that sometimes the choices of what to do with stuff that is no longer needed is limited and that she tries to focus on "what is the least worst thing we can do" with the items. Cara spoke about how she felt that we are doing our best and that we should not concentrate on what happens after we do what we can. Emily indicated that we should model the behavior such as reusing paper. Larissa mentioned that her library does that. Larissa also mentioned that she is working on having the landscaping be more sustainable.

Larissa then mentioned that she was writing an article for the New Jersey Library Association's (NJLA) newsletter. It will be about Code Blue and Code Red which will talk about the current state of the Code Blue and Code Red laws. Code Blue is a law in effect in NJ, Code Red is not yet a law. Code Blue requires have warming centers available if the temperature goes below 32 degrees. She noted that poor air quality is not addressed in either the Code Red or Code Blue documentation.

Larissa next spoke about NJLA conference proposals. She said she would like to start a Seed Library. She commented that she knows other libraries have seed libraries such as Cranford. She also suggested a set-up for an exchange of things such as a Craft Swaps or Swag swap. She then noted that the Section is working to develop a list of grant opportunities for Sustainability programs as well as one for presenters.

On a final note, Larissa indicated she would follow-up with Section members regarding attending meetings.

With no further topics to discuss Larissa called for a motion to adjourn. Emily moved the motion and Lisa seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51.