

SLCP Meetup #16 Notes  
Thursday, October 8, 2021, 11am

Moderator/Notetaker: Annemarie Gordon

Attendance: Aileen Basuljevic (Van Wyck JHS), Beth Davis (Berne-Knox-Westerlo MS/HS), Beth Green (Wappingers JHS), Casey Conlin (Mid-Hudson Library System), Jeri Cohen (Patchogue-Medford Library), Lisa Jacobs (Longwood Public Library), Nell Cava (Shelter Island Public Library), Nicola McDonald (Haverstraw King's Daughters Public Library), Nicole Lane (Gardiner Library), Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Co-creator SLI, Mid-Hudson Library System), Roger Reyes (Suffolk Cooperative Library System)

Member Updates (Annemarie):

One library recently submitted their completed Action Item Form for review, three libraries are very close to finishing.

Announcements:

Lisa Jacobs will be presenting a program for ALA's SustainRT on November 4th about Longwood's certification process.

Rebekkah noted that Patti Wong's column in Library Journal mentions the SLI and Longwood's recent certification.

Introductions:

We again had a wide range of experience in this Meetup, from the founding members of the program to recently enrolled participants. We also had representation from our public and school library programs.

Upcoming Presentations:

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Matt Bollerman will be delivering a keynote address and several SLCP members will be taking part in a panel at the Libraries and Sustainability Seminar for the State Library Victoria and Victoria Public Libraries. Registration (times are Australian time zones): <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/libraries-and-sustainability-seminar-registration-190079311337>

Rebekkah will also be presenting at an ALA Connect Live event on February 24th, more information will be shared when available.

Questions and comments:

Annemarie inquired about Travel Policies that mention Sustainable Decision making, and No-Idling Policy examples. Examples are being added to the website and we would love to include any from our member libraries.

Nell brought the [Public Libraries in Smart Cities and Communities Toolbox](#) to our attention.

Discussion of the program for very small libraries. Gardiner Library's Director, Nicole, is the only full time staff. Finding partners on the small staff and on the library board were suggested. Also discussed was connecting the small libraries in our program with each other to network and brainstorm together. This program is built on the idea of libraries helping libraries, we are building resources to share with our members and encourage collaboration.

Discussion of libraries post-certification:

Lisa mentioned some community support, but also some confusion as many patrons thought the work was done with the completion of the new building. Communicating the work you are doing is an ongoing process with constant messages about why the work is ongoing. Roger mentioned that Longwood's certification ceremony drew 4 elected officials who presented proclamations. Clearly sustainability is recognized broadly as an important designation to be recognized for.

Rebekkah - This program is about changing mindsets. It's more than just a checklist, but a change in how you think.

Lisa stated that she continues to talk about the program and how it informs her decisions. She has heard that reflected by her staff.

Jeri - Her library is large and there was a lot of support from the staff from the beginning. Even after certification, there is still a lot of room to improve. She would love to give up balloons, for example. She has to keep in mind the major changes that have been made. The process is ongoing and requires a lot of coordination and management.

Nell - added that getting people to care about sustainability is an ongoing struggle.

Nicole - Question: How did you publicize and communicate with your staff and community?

Nicola - Haverstraw King's Daughters had a newsletter with a Sustainability Section to keep the community engaged. It incorporated tips for personal sustainability.

Jeri - extended recycling efforts to patrons, example - Bic pen recycling.

Sara - Discussed weariness about pigeonholing the sustainability programs, Lindenhurst is now incorporating the sustainability themed programs in the other sections of their programming newsletter with an icon indicating that they are sustainability themed. This way patrons will not overlook the sustainability section and miss out on programs that may interest them even if they are not looking for sustainability resources.

The next SLCP Meetup is scheduled for Thursday, Dec 2nd at 11am.