

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
February 2, 2021**

Board Members Present: Chris Stevens, Anne Spirn, Daniel Munnelly

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:34 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of December 29, 2020. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of December 29, 2020. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved by roll call vote 2-0.

Daniel Munnelly – Aye

Anne Spirn – Aye

Acceptance of the Minutes of January 6, 2021. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of January 6, 2021. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved unanimously in a roll call vote.

Chris Stevens – Aye

Daniel Munnelly – Aye

Anne Spirn – Aye

Director's Report.

Building. The computer room ceiling repair was completed on January 27. Air Duct Services did an excellent job. They reported no visible mold damage, and seamlessly worked the repair and repaint of the water-damaged portion of the ceiling into the rest of the ceiling. They also addressed the damaged molding on the east and south sides of the room.

CPC grant application's new deadline is March 12. Please consider the new cost estimates provided by Lamarre Construction Company.

Sharon requested a Motion requesting the Trustees guidance to apply for grants from the Community Preservation Committee and Massachusetts Historical Commission to cover most of the remaining exterior repair of the Library building quoted at approximately \$228,000. Motion made by Daniel Munnelly, seconded by Anne Spirn, and Approved by a roll call vote.

Chris Stevens – Aye

Daniel Munnelly – Aye

Anne Spirn – Aye

Budget 2022. At the December 1 Trustees meeting, Mark Cullinan had suggested that a new Children's Librarian hire should work with Johnson Elementary School to deliver library services to the students and teachers there. He directed Tony Barletta to arrange a meeting with Sharon and the school administration to discuss the possibility, but no meeting was arranged subsequently. This past week, Sharon proposed a meeting with Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and Principal Kevin Andrews, which will take place on Thursday, February 4 at 12:30, via Google Meet.

The Board of Selectmen meet this Thursday at 6:30, purportedly to vote on the FY2022 budget. The Advisory Finance Committee has invited the Library to a meeting to discuss the FY2022 budget on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. The Trustees agreed to each reach out to a member of the Select Board to seek their endorsement of the Library's budget request.

Smoke Alarm Panel. The building's alarm panel dates to 1979. It recently began making a buzzing noise and Sharon was told by Instant Signal and Alarm that it needed to be replaced. Sharon is working with the company to have that done, at a cost of \$2,085.

State Aid. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has relaxed a few of their requirements for library certification and qualification for State Aid for Public Libraries because of the pandemic. Two of those requirements that pertain to Nahant Public Library are detailed below.

The Hours Open requirement will not be mandated this year. (Nahant Library currently more than meets the total number of hours open per week (15 are required, Nahant is open 32), and the requirement of evening hours, but do not meet the requirement for weekend hours as the Library is currently closed both Saturday and Sunday.

The Materials Budget Requirement will also be relaxed from 19.5% of the operating budget. The Library could meet the requirement if it continued purchasing materials for lending to the public at the current rate. The relaxation of this requirement will enable the Library to make a few small, necessary purchases, such as computers, the alarm panel, and a new outdoor bulletin board.

The Municipal Appropriations Requirement (MAR) will remain the same, and is dependent upon the Library meeting the other requirements (which it does) and the town not cutting the Library's budget disproportionately to other town departments.

Nahant Reads Together: Death of a Salesman. Sharon is recruiting readers to do a table reading of part of *Death of a Salesman* on February 19. Along with a movie discussion on Feb. 11 and a general book discussion on Feb. 26, the series will discuss the American Dream.

Connections Memory Café. The Library will host a Zoom version of its Connections Memory Café on February 11 at 10:00. Lisa Haley will sing for the participants and Valentine's Day will be the theme.

Nature in Nahant. Sharon will work with the school administration to schedule these programs, part of the Nature in Nahant project:

1. Teach students about the herbarium and Nahant elementary schoolteacher Miss Johnson, and have the students press plants. Assuming the school model is still partially in-person, partially online learning, this presents some challenges, but is perhaps not insurmountable. Sharon will try to implement this in June.
2. Along with that project, Sharon will launch a new book in the spring for the Library's outdoor Story Stroll, called [The Hugging Tree](#). The book has even been tied to a [Teacher Guide and Common Core](#). The author has agreed to do a virtual program for the Library in April or May.

Adjourned: 7:06 PM