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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:34 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of February 2, 2021. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of February 2, 2021. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved unanimously.

Director’s Report.

School/Library partnership. [handout] On March 3, Select Chairman Mark Cullinan met with Chris, Sharon, School Committee Chair Lauren Sherlock, and School Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi to discuss the possibility of forming a new School/Library partnership. All were in agreement with the idea. It was mentioned in the School Committee’s March 9 agenda as an item for future discussion. Sharon sent a draft agreement to the Superintendent on March 10. The Superintendent approved with the addition of one assertive introductory sentence. Anne Spirn wanted to be clear that working with the school would not define the entire job role of the Children’s Librarian.

Building. A new alarm panel was installed by Instant Signal and Alarm March 1. The old panel, dating to 1979, went out of order in mid-February and could not be repaired. There are apparently still some adjustments to be made to make all smoke alarms functional, but it is connected to their switchboard and all emergency numbers.

A grant application was submitted to the Community Preservation Committee on March 3. Sharon is putting the finishing touches on a second grant application to the Mass Historical Commission, to be postmarked March 19.

Sharon Hawkes requested a Motion to have the Trustees agree to use the Friends’ Building Fund as matching funds if needed for envelope projects addressed in the two grant applications. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved by roll call vote:

   Anne Spirn – Aye
   Chris Stevens – Aye
   Daniel Munnelly – Aye

State Aid. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has certified Nahant Public Library this year and it is fully qualified for State Aid. The list of 294 qualified libraries can be found on the Mass Board of Library Commissioners website.
**Marion Bloch Book Collection.** Marion Bloch was the Johnson Elementary School psychologist for many years. After her passing in 2020, donations in the amount of $320 were made, and her friends asked if the Library would create a collection of books concerning children and disabilities. The Marion Bloch Collection will be completed at the end of March, with bookplates in her memory, and the books along with some information about Dr. Bloch will be on display through April. The collection includes books for children and adults, in fiction and nonfiction, and will be shelved throughout the library after the display is over.

**Jigsaw puzzles.** Two patrons have donated jigsaw puzzles to help the Library create a puzzle lending collection. They will be added to the puzzles the Library acquired over time, including through the Dementia Friendly Nahant grant, and Carolyn has created a spreadsheet to catalog them outside of the online public access catalog. Assuming COVID-19 continues to wane, they will be made available in April.

**Children’s Author.** Author Jill Neimark will present her picture book on resilience, called *The Hugging Tree*, to young students at Johnson Elementary School on April 14. All participating students will get a copy of the book, thanks to the Nature in Nahant grant.

**May 1-2, Walk Nahant.** Nahanters will be encouraged to walk the various trails of Nahant in the first weekend of May, in partnership with Jim Walsh, Nahant Historical Society, 40 Steps Dance, and other artists and local groups. On May 1-2, residents will be invited to take pictures of some of the plants and flowers that grow at Lodge Park and match them up with the pressed plant specimens that can be found there. Walk Nahant brochures will be available.

**May herbarium project.** The JES students will learn about elementary education at the turn of the 20th century by learning about the Florence Johnson Herbarium and pressing plants themselves.

**“Wildman” Steve Brill.** In late May or early June, “Wildman” Steve Brill will talk about wild, edible plants that grow in Nahant, with a lecture on Friday evening and a walking tour on Saturday morning. The talk will be virtual and the walk will be in person, distanced.

**Summer Reading Program.** This summer’s theme is “Tails and Tales,” with an animal theme. Plans are for a shadow puppeteer and a science-y story about a unicorn, both virtual programs. Signups will begin the first week in June and activities will begin in July.

**Summer Music Program.** TBA, but Carolyn is considering having both an online and an in-person component, the latter perhaps on the lawn.
**Book Sale.** The Library has an abundance of book donations! The Friends hopefully will be able to offer an outdoor book sale this summer.

**New Business.**

**Budget 2022.** Sharon presented the Trustees-approved budget to Advisory and Finance Committee liaisons Julie Tarmy and Barbara Beatty on February 25, and to the full Committee via Zoom on March 9. The Board of Selectmen have returned the proper amount of Longevity bonuses to the budget, an amount indicated in the Employee Handbook. But they did not correct the amount for the Page position, which is a 12 hour per week, minimum wage position. It is Sharon’s understanding that Tony intends for the Library to use the Page money toward the Children’s Librarian position.

Daniel Munnelly spoke passionately about the need for full funding of all positions, including a page, so that the Library can meet the needs he hears from residents about most often – specifically programming and hours open. All the Trustees are in agreement and will prepare to take the matter to Annual Town Meeting.

**Adjourned:** 7:32 PM