

**Nahant Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
November 16, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Anne Spirn, Daniel Munnelly

**Board Members Absent:** Chris Stevens

**Others Present:** Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

**Convened:** 6:34 PM

**Acceptance of the Minutes of October 19, 2021.** Anne Spirn made a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of October 19, 2021. Motion seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn -- Aye

Daniel Munnelly – Aye

**Director's Report.**

**Building.** The RFP on the library building project was posted on November 4. Special invitations to bid went out to eight different contractors. A walkthrough for potential bidders will be held on November 18, with the contract to be awarded on December 15. Details concerning DCAMM (Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance) certification for builders have been ironed out, and the procurement officer says there is a lot of interest from potential bidders.

Under the town's Green Communities project, insulation was inserted into the unfinished portion of the attic on November 4. Verizon was also in the building on November 4 to upgrade the internet connection, but found a problem with reconnecting. The library was without internet for a half day, but used one of the new T-Mobile-powered hotspots and a tablet and phones to access the catalog and the Internet it was down.

A routine check of the boiler turned into a two-day, 6-hour job on November 10-11. After replacing a damaged T pipe joint and some minor parts, the heat seems to be back on.

**Intellectual freedom.** Across the country, people who are politically ultra-conservative are being encouraged to run for state and local office, including school boards, where they are trying to ban or restrict the reading of books on topics such as systemic racism, LGBTQ+, feminism, and sex education. It is important that the Board understands the essentials on intellectual freedom in school and public libraries. Information can be found through the ALA [Intellectual Freedom](#) pages and its [Banned Books](#) pages. Nahant Public Library has both a collection development policy and procedure in the event of a book challenge. The freedom to read and seek information are both encased in the First Amendment's right to freedom of speech and of the press.

**Fundraising.** More Than Words has picked up the rest of the discards from the August book sale, and Joanne is beginning to arrange the third floor for an ongoing sale.

Gifts totaling \$350 were made out to the Friends or to the Town of Nahant/Library in honor of Calantha Sears' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. An additional \$250 was given by the Bauta family to the Friends. Many thanks for everyone's support!

**Clock.** The grandfather clock is now keeping time and can be rewound each week. Thanks to Robert Barile and Jeffrey Zimmer for their work on it.

**Library website.** Work continues on the new website. Carolyn is helping Guilfoil Public Relations to install the website's button links.

**Children's department.** The weekly craft table continues with fall craft ideas, and a new seasonal Story Stroll was installed. Story time is paused for now, but Children and Family Cooperative Services will hold a story time on November 30.

**Adult services.** The next Connections Café will be held on November 18 with a painting craft led by Marty Taylor.

**Indie Author Day.** On Saturday, November 13, Independent Author Day was revived, on hiatus since the pandemic. It was a chance for local authors to read and make their work available for purchase and signing. Eight local authors presented this year, including locals David Liscio, Francis Farr and Dee Marquis, and former Nahanters Dr. Terrence Murphy.

**Artifacts in Your Library.** In going through the artwork in storage in the attic, Sharon and Robert Wilson uncovered some important Nahant history artifacts, including the photo proofs for *Annals of Nahant* and the adult nonfiction book lists from 1895. These may be scanned in future projects. Sharon let the Board know that Jim Walsh's event Art. Nature. Nahant. will happen again in May 2022. The Library will be involved and may have its reception for the artwork in conjunction with this event.

**Brattle Book Roadshow.** Ken Gloss of the Brattle Book Shop will do an online Roadshow for books on Thursday Dec. 9, 2021 at 6:30 via Zoom. He will discuss rare and collectible books and will verbally appraise books from images that attendees can send him in advance of the event.

## **New Business.**

**Building.** Daniel Munnely offered to be involved with fundraising or coordination for specific building-related projects that the library might take on. Sharon mentioned her interest in creating a staff break room on the landing which may involve some extra funds.

**Friends.** The Friends submitted a Financial Balance Sheet. Anne Spirn had a question about the Reconciliation Discrepancies line and Sharon offered that she would follow up.

**Adjourned: 7:06 PM**