

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
March 8, 2022**

Board Members Present: Chris Stevens, Anne Spirn

Board Members Absent: Daniel Munnelly

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:35 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of January 18, 2022. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of January 18, 2022 as amended. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Chris Stevens – Aye

Director's Report.

Masking. The Library continues to align with the Johnson School's protocols on masking, in order to make it seamless for children to come to the Library and for Sharon to go to the School. On February 15, the School Committee voted to make masks voluntary instead of mandatory beginning March 7, and to give the Superintendent the discretion to extend the mandate until March 21 if the numbers of cases in Nahant should worsen by March 7. COVID numbers have continued to decline to date.

Sharon requested a Motion to continue to align the Library's mask protocols with the Johnson School and make masks optional at the Library. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Chris Stevens – Aye

Budget 2023. On January 25, Sharon met with Advisory and Finance Committee member Julie Tarmy to discuss the budget for FY2023. On February 17, Sharon received the Town Administrator's proposed budget. The differences between it and the Trustees' budget include:

- The total operating budget is \$4 less than this year's budget (however, the total does meet the Municipal Appropriations Requirement)
- Full-time salaries would have an increase of 2.39%, instead of the Trustees' 3%
- The Electricity line is level-funded compared to this year, even though that line is already expended by 73.36% at the end of January of this year
- The gap between the Materials Budget Requirement and the actual materials budget has been widened, from \$2,191.90 this year to \$3,944.12 next year. That gap needs to be made up from other income sources to make the state requirement

The Trustees would like to pursue some of these discrepancies and will plan to accompany Sharon in a meeting with Tony Barletta, Town Administrator.

Nahant Reads Together. The Library began a new Nahant Reads Together on February 1. The community is invited to read *An Object of Beauty*, a novel by Steve Martin about the art collecting world. Nahant will also read and discuss a few chapters from *Braiding Sweetgrass*, a series of essays about indigenous wisdom. The two very different books will intersect in conversation about the Western art and Native artifacts housed in Nahant Public Library. There will be 4 Saturdays of programs relating to the Nahant Reads Together project, talking about the art and Native artifacts in the Library's collection:

March 5	UMass' Christoph Strobel on Nahant's Native history
March 12	art historian Martha Chiarchiaro on US landscape painting
March 19	Sachem Larry Fisher on Native tribes today
March 26	Sharon Hawkes discusses the two books and Nahant Library's art/artifacts

All programs will be offered at 4:00, live at the Library. This Nahant Reads is part of a larger Library Services and Technology Act grant to better describe the Library's art and artifact collections, and is administered by the Mass Board of Library Commissioners.

The Nahant community has also been invited to participate in Robbins Library's Arlington Reads Together, as they are also reading *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

Building. Architect Richard Smith forwarded a written recommendation to the Town Administrator, suggesting that Greenwood Industries of Worcester's proposal should be accepted, and a Clerk of the Works be appointed to oversee quality and timeliness. The selectmen voted in favor of Greenwood on February 16. On March 3, a Zoom meeting was held with Greenwood, Richard, the Town Administrator, Mass Historical Commission's Ross Dekle, and Sharon, reminding them of a deadline of June 30 to have at least \$100,000 (nearly half) of the work done to meet MHC's grant deadline for funding. The next morning, Greenwood emailed that they would not sign a contract to do the work they bid on, citing supply chain issues and rising subcontractor fees. Richard is trying to more fully vet the second-lowest bidder, Homer Industries, to see if this first bid round will be sufficient.

Meeting in person. The Governor has extended the order allowing remote meetings during COVID until July 15, 2022. The consensus of the Trustees is to continue remotely for as long as possible.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>

Johnson Elementary School. Sharon began offering classes in information literacy on January 19. Each grade will see her every other week. Kindergartners will learn the parts of the book, and that books come in all shapes, sizes, and themes. Older students will be learning about different genres, and how to research and cite sources. The fifth graders

will make their own picture books, and the sixth graders will make artist books that rethink the whole idea of what a book can be.

Library website. The new website went live on January 20. It includes a direct link to the catalog on every page, a banner for major announcements such as weather closings, and a blog that pushes posts to Twitter and allows people who don't subscribe to social media to keep up with Library happenings.

Children's department. Emma Monahan began as the Children's Librarian on February 8. Emma has her BA in English and Communications from Mass College of Liberal Arts and will complete her Master's in Library Science from Simmons University next year. She will be receiving practical knowledge in the field while gaining theoretical knowledge at Simmons.

Miss Kathy from Coordinated Family and Community Engagement was here for story time on Feb. 10 and 17. Emma observed and felt comfortable to begin conducting her own story times.

Emma offered a board games afternoon for children on winter break on Tuesday, February 22 at 2:00, and a "crafternoon" the following day at 2:00. She is now filling in on story times whenever CFCE is not presenting.

Artwork restoration. Chris Matthias and Ken Turino helped Sharon package up one of the three Erik Christian Petersen paintings that is in the collection but in need of repair. They brought it to a conservator they know, and Sharon forwarded the quote to restore the painting to the Friends for their consideration. The Friends have agreed, and Moore Painting Conservation will provide a timeline as soon as they have received a deposit check for the work.

Black Women Suffragettes. February 2-11, the computer room housed an exhibit on Black women who advocated in the 19th century for a woman's right to vote. The series of posters was created by the North Shore Juneteenth Association.

PJ Drive. For February and March, the Library will be participating in the Boston Bruins pajama drive for children of needy families. Simply bring a donation of new PJs to the library and staff will deliver them to Cradles to Crayons and Wonderfund MA. Donors can also order their PJs through Amazon Smile, using the Library Wish List here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1VY7P2OSD9WHK?ref=wl_share This is their 15th annual drive, sponsored by the Bruins and the First Lady of the Commonwealth, Lauren Baker.

PTO Scavenger Hunt. The Johnson School's PTO hosted a scavenger hunt for students over the February 5-6 weekend. One of the stops was the library.

Presentations. On February 9, Sharon described the Florence Johnson Herbarium project to librarians and others who were curious about starting digitization projects with Digital Commonwealth. There were many smart questions for the three people who presented.

On February 25, Sharon presented on the Dementia Friendly Nahant project to library science students at Simmons University, via Zoom. The class, “LIS 422 Literacy and Services to Underserved Populations,” is taught by Shelley Quezada, who also administered the Dementia Friendly grant for the Mass Board of Library Commissioners.

Book collection. Retired Egyptologist Joyce Haynes has loaned her books on Ancient Egypt that are suitable for children for the use of the 6th graders as they begin their unit on that topic. The Library has also purchased seven books (including two authored by Joyce) to add to its collection on the subject. Sharon is working with the other teachers toward developing other parts of the nonfiction collection, as well.

S.W.I.M. has made a donation of \$265 to help the Library develop its nature collection. New additions include books on birding, regional native plants, and shell and rock identification. The Library is also purchasing books on climate change to align with the Johnson Schools unit on the topic.

Retired astrophysicist Peter Foukal has donated a middle school text on astronomy to the library collection.

An anonymous donor will be helping the Library purchase books on math, computers and coding in memory of Owen Welsh, the late son of former Nahanters John and Maria Welsh. Owen worked for a time at the Library, and went on to a successful career in computers with Mercury Systems and most recently DEKA Research & Development.

New Business.

Collection Review Policy. Sharon advised making a small change to the Library’s collection review policy. This change will address who can submit a challenge and limit it to Nahant residents.

Sharon requested a Motion to update the Collection Review Policy as outlined above. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Chris Stevens – Aye

Note to welcome Emma Monahan. The Trustees welcome Emma Monahan as the new Children’s Librarian. They are happy to have her and look forward to seeing her contributions. Chris Stevens will mail a welcome card.

Adjourned: 7:20 PM