

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
April 19, 2022**

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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:31 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of March 8, 2022. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of March 8, 2022 as amended. Motion made by Daniel Munnelly, seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved by roll call vote.

Anne Spirn – Aye

Chris Stevens – Aye

Daniel Munnelly – Aye

Director's Report.

Building. Homer Construction has been awarded the building project and is working with Richard Smith leading up to the project start date. Richard, Sharon, and George Bouboulis, a Homer representative, met on April 12 to establish a timeline for implementation of the project, which should begin the week of April 25.

COVID-19. The Library staff was exposed to a person who was masked but later tested positive for COVID-19. In keeping with the current COVID guidelines, all staff were tested and either returned to work wearing masks for two weeks or isolated at home for a week and returned, masked, after testing negative on Day 5. The town nurse was informed. No additional spread was recorded as a result of the exposure.

Children's department. Emma's "Crafternoons" are going well and drawing about a dozen participants, as are her story times, which Emma alternates with "Miss Kathy" of Lynn Coordinated Family and Community Engagement. Emma also has been weeding the collection and making it easier to access, grouping series chapter books and grouping some of the picture books by popular topics. Emma is receiving good feedback on her work.

Nahant Reads Together/Artifacts in Your Library. The Library's activities around reading *An Object of Beauty* and *Braiding Sweetgrass* were completed on April 9. As the activities were part of the greater "Artifacts in Your Library" project, participants have been asked to fill out a feedback survey. The programs included:

March 5	UMass' Christoph Strobel on Nahant's Native history – 19 attendees
March 12	art historian Martha Chiarchiaro on US landscape painting – 14 attendees
March 26	Sharon Hawkes discussed the two books and Nahant Library's art and artifacts – 11 attendees

April 9 Sagamore Faries Gray on the history of the Massachusetts Tribe in the Boston area, including Nahant – 25 attendees

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.

Mr. Gray is interested in developing an ongoing relationship with Nahant, and returned on April 13 to speak with members of the Historical Society and Sharon. Sharon is also keeping in touch with a student from Northeastern who is working on a project to develop a land acknowledgement.

Sharon sent an interim report on the grant project to the Mass Board of Library Commissioners on April 13. She has completed the metadata for the art photographs and will deliver the hard drive of photos to Boston Public Library soon. She is working to complete the tour brochure details this week.

PJ Drive. A dozen new sets of pajamas were delivered to a dropbox in Marblehead as part of the Boston Bruins/Cradles to Crayons PJ Drive.

Banned Books USA. In response to a concerning trend of book challenges and proposed state legislation against librarians across the country, Sharon will offer a program on April 23 at 4:00 called, "Banned Books USA: What's Going On?" The American Library Association reports that book challenges and bans this past year have exceeded the number of any of the past 20 years. The program will give examples of what is happening and suggest ways in which the public can respond.

Art.Nature.Nahant. On Saturday, May 14, the town will again offer the community gathering at East Point begun last year. The Library is committed to having a table which can be manned by staff and/or the Friends.

New Business.

Budget 2023. Sharon and Anne Spirn met with the Advisory and Finance Committee to discuss next year's budget. Anne noted the necessity to educate the committee members, especially many new members, that it is the job of the Library Trustees to communicate the needs and priorities of the Library, and not other departments, to the Town Administrator and Finance Committee. Anne felt it was important to focus on the supportive committee members and Daniel Munnely suggested connecting personally.

Adjourned: 7:17 PM