Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
July 19, 2022

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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:33 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of April 19, 2022. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of April 19, 2022. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved unanimously by roll call vote:

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

Acceptance of the Minutes of May 24, 2022. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of May 24, 2022. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved unanimously by roll call vote:

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

Director’s Report.

Town Administrator Goals. Sharon will meet with the Town Administrator to see where the Library’s interests can also support the Town and its goals.

Budget 2022. The budget for FY2022 closed on June 30. Sharon made a few budget adjustments in the expenses lines, and the budget balanced at year end. The Materials Expenditure Requirement has been met, including with the purchase of public computers: two laptops to replace aging ones. Town hall also purchased a public computer, and a year-old one was transferred to Sharon’s station, where it functions as the server for the staff network as well as Sharon’s PC.

Goals for 2022-2023. Sharon is looking to undertake a number of projects and programs this fiscal year. They include:

- Capital Campaign. Sharon is proposing to ask a list of potential donors for some major gifts ($1,000 or more) this year, and to hold three fundraising events to cover different levels of giving: a kickoff celebration of the building in September; a late fall tea; and a Scrabble® tournament fundraiser.
- Digitization and inventory. The CPC grant to create an inventory of the Library’s furnishings and original book collection will include uploading the details of the
furniture into the Library’s PastPerfect software and the images of the dedications and book metadata into Digital Commonwealth.

- Two town-wide reads, TBA
- Indie Author Day in the fall
- Return to the Johnson Elementary School in September
- Strategic planning for FY25-29 in the spring

**Building.** The work continues on schedule. The French drain is in place, the chimney repointing is complete, and work is continuing on the flashings and gutters. The restored windows and bulkhead doors were installed. They are manufacturing new vent screens for the east side of the building, and will be installing the new window screens soon.

There was a proposal from Homer Contracting to replace the flat roof, which was turned down for lack of funds. Additionally, there remain three projects to complete the entire envelope project: repointing, replacing eroded blocks of sandstone, and the lichen on the north side of the building.

Sharon would like to hold a kickoff fundraiser on September 10 to celebrate the building.

**COVID-19.** The case count has been dropping over the past few weeks, and people are opting to wear masks or not in the library. The Library has handed out about 500 tests from the Town’s purchase.

**Geocache.** Nahant Public Library is now a geocaching destination at geocache.com. Geocaching is basically a treasure hunt in which finders use GPS coordinates to locate hidden objects. The coordinates are N 42° 25.436' W 070° 54.794' and they lead to the Coffey bench on the front lawn.

**Banned Books.** Book, display, and program censorship continues to occur across the US. Sadly, a Massachusetts candidate for Secretary of State has been entering public libraries and decrying books in support of LGBTQ+ and drag queen story times on her Facebook page. The Mass Board of Library Commissioners, the Mass Library System, and the Mass Library Association have all produced webinars to assist librarians and board members in responding to such threats.

**Apollo Club concert.** On June 5, The Apollo Club of Boston returned to 53 attendees, bringing their men’s choral repertoire of light classics, spirituals, folk songs, and show tunes. Their new subgroup known as “Three Sheets to the Wind” presented entertaining sea chanteys. The Friends reported donations of $500.

**Johnson Elementary School. Johnson School display.** In 2021, Dillon Helbig of Boise, Idaho hid a book he wrote in his local library. It became famous! In 2022, Johnson School’s 5th and 6th graders made books of their own, and they are on display for the month of July in the main hall of the library. Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi has asked the Library to return in the fall.
**Artifacts in Your Library.** Signage for the artwork on the walls was manufactured by Office Sign Company and arrived on July 5. The self-tour brochure, beautifully designed by Nahant Mai-Lis Tria of Brandparents, was printed by Staples in June and an electronic version can be seen on the Library website at [https://nahantlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/05/NPL-LibraryArtifactsTour-Digital-PAGES.pdf](https://nahantlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/05/NPL-LibraryArtifactsTour-Digital-PAGES.pdf). Digital Commonwealth says it will have the images of the artworks uploaded to its website by the end of August.

**Children’s department.** The Children’s Summer Reading Program began July 1 with the theme, “Reading beyond the Beaten Path.” Emma visited Johnson Elementary School in June to talk about the program and hand out registration forms. There is also a registration form online. Fifty-five children have registered.

The first event was a petting zoo by Records and Burpees on July 6. Some 80 people of all ages came to pet and feed the goats, sheep, alpacas, and tortoise that were offered at Flash Road Playground’s summer recreation program. On July 12, a puppet show was offered to 60. Emma is also offering her story times to the Rec program. Thanks to the Friends of Nahant Public Library for underwriting these events. Congratulations to Emma for a successful program!

**Summer Music Series.** Carolyn’s music series returns, and opened with Lisa Haley’s songs and guitar on July 7, and Gian Carlo Buscaglia on July 14. There were a combined 43 in attendance so far. The series will conclude on July 21 with Chris James.

**Collection Development.** Emma and Carolyn have both undertaken extensive weeding projects, assessing the children and adult collections, respectively, and weeding worn or unread books for replacement or retirement. Most recently, Emma worked on the chapter books, chapter series, and YA, and Carolyn worked on adult nonfiction, reference, and local history.

**Farmer’s Market.** The Town of Nahant will hold three farmer’s markets on the following Saturdays from 10-1:
- July 16
- August 20
- September 17

Nahant Public Library will be there to sell Friends books and merchandise, offer a free wi-fi connection, and sign people up for a library card.

**Adjourned:** 6:59 PM