

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
August 16, 2022**

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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:29 PM

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

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

Director’s Report.

State reporting.

1. The in-house collection continues to hold at about twenty thousand (20,094 v. 20,168 last year) and the combined electronic holdings are estimated at about 150,000. What seems to have happened, both indicated by the increased numbers of visitors (8,383 v. 2,506) and the increased number of circulations is that people are returning to the physical library for books, programs, and computer access, while at the same time they are maintaining their use of electronic resources.

2. At the end of the year, the Library circulated a total of 12,874 physical items in the building, compared to 9,413 in FY2021. At the same time, electronic resources use stayed strong, resulting in 4,123 uses of the ebooks and databases, nearly double the use in 2019. Most interesting, Hoopla and Kanopy platforms outperformed OverDrive, 2,194 v. 1,706. The rest of electronic circulations come from the state databases (221) and Universal Class (2).

Circulations	FY2022	FY2021	FY2020	FY2019
Physical items	12,874	9,413	13,178	16,832
Electronic items	4,123	3,891	3,518	2,120
Total items	16,997	13,304	16,696	18,952

3. The 2021-22 year kicked off with 51 children signed up for the Summer Reading Program, and they all received their goodie bags of weekly worksheets and reading logs. Programs were held virtually and were sparsely attended (total 29). There was no summer rec program at the park, due to COVID, to guarantee participation. Kathy

Westin of Coordinated Family and Community Engagement and the children's librarian presented story times. Sharon taught bi-weekly classes in library skills at the school. Adult programs included two town-wide reads, the successful Summer Music Series coordinated by Carolyn and recorded live (1,438 online views), a program about living with coyotes (19), an Indie Author Day (25), a program on book banning (12) and a concert with the Apollo Club of Boston (53).

4. "Artifacts in Your Library" was a federal grant-funded program, administrated by the Mass Board of Library Commissioners, to better preserve and describe the Library's artwork and Native artifacts collection. The historic art and the Native exhibit was digitized and uploaded to Digital Commonwealth. A self-guided tour brochure was created, and signage about some of the works was distributed throughout the first floor. Programs included lectures by Native historian and author Christoph Strobel (19), art historian Martha Chiarchiaro (14), and Sagamore Faries Gray of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag (25). A final wrap-up for the program will be held on Sept. 10, 2022.

Building and grounds. The building project wraps up soon with work on creating access doors to the downspouts on the east side, followed by cleanup of the whole site. Ross Dekle from Mass Historical Commission will conduct a site visit, and architect Richard Smith will write up a completion report.

Three border trees were taken down this month, to prevent the aging trees from coming down in a storm. In the library park, a front fence was constructed to make the playground safer for young children.

Artifacts in Your Library. Almost all facets of the project are complete, including: a self-guided tour brochure; a town-wide read and talks by a scholar on Natives of New England, an art historian, and the Sagamore of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag; and the art collection digitally photographed and now live at Digital Commonwealth. (<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:ns066w35k>)

Book banning. In national news, a library in Jamestown, Michigan had some book challenges. The library board voted not to remove the books. The protesters then developed a campaign to defund the library, so that instead of voting for an increased mill rate, the town voted "no" and the library may close once its budget runs out. The town is now trying to figure out if it can pull together enough fundraising and emergency funds to keep the library afloat, and whether or not the voters can revisit the issue in November. It is a cautionary tale that libraries should never assume that the people who favor the library (as most do) will show up to vote.

Butterflies. Scott Santino of Mass Audubon will be at the Library on Saturday, September 10 at 10:00 to talk about butterflies. He will bring slides of his stunning photography, and discuss how to promote plantings and habitat that will promote

butterflies. Afterward, participants may join him on a nature walk to look for and identify butterflies in Nahant. The program is held jointly with Nahant S.W.I.M.

ArtiFest. The Library will hold an event to celebrate the completion of the building work and the artifacts project on Saturday, September 10 at 2:00. Sharon will show slides on the two projects and demonstrate how to explore the collection at Digital Commonwealth. Attendees will receive a tour brochure to take home, and docents will be on hand to help answer questions.

Farmer's Market. Nahant Public Library was at the July 16 farmer's market to sell Friends books and merchandise, offer a free wifi connection, and sign people up for a library card. They will attend two more Markets, one on August 20 and one on September 17.

Nahant Reads Together. A new town-wide read for September, with activities in October and early November will be announced soon.

New Business.

Board Response. In regards to fundraising, specifically at ArtiFest, the Board wants to emphasize that the Library has been playing catch up on deferred maintenance and the next areas to be addressed are outdated electrical work and HVAC. The Trustees also commended Sharon for her persistence with the building project and her collaboration with many groups and committees around Nahant.

Adjourned: 7:05 PM