

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
October 4, 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 August 16, 2022. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of August 16, 2022. Motion made by Chris Stevens, seconded by Anne Spirn, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Chris Stevens – Aye

Director's Report.

State reporting. Sharon has completed the state ARIS statistical report and the financial report. And submitted them to the Mass Board of Library Commissioners. The Library is in compliance with all requirements, including the materials budget.

Building and grounds. Homer Contracting has essentially completed the work on this phase of repairs to the building, including some reseeding of the grounds their lift trucks and drainage system disturbed. Still to be completed: the installation of a few cremone bolts (guides for the window latches), a look again at one leak that appeared on the third floor during a thunderstorm, and the replacement of block around the northwest window (this last was a supply chain delay). On Sept. 23, Mass Historical Commission Preservation Planner Ross Dekle inspected and approved the building repairs. Architect Richard Smith is completing the final report.

Artifacts in Your Library. Almost all facets of the project are now 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](#). In addition, Sharon assembled an art history kit and wrote a series of activities based on the art in the Library to go with it. A school field trip to the Library with activities based on the art collection is planned by Johnson Elementary School's third grade for later in the school year. Sharon will submit a final report on the project to the Mass Board of Library Commissioners later this week.

Butterflies. Eighteen people attended Scott Santino's Mass Audubon talk on butterflies at the Library on Saturday, September 10 at 10:00. Afterward, participants went on a

nature walk to the Whitney Homestead on Nahant Road to identify butterflies in the Costin's backyard gardens. The program was held jointly with Nahant S.W.I.M.

Artifest. Sharon showed slides and answered questions about the current phase of the building envelope restoration and the art and artifacts project on September 10 at 2:00 to 27 interested members of the public. Noteworthy attendees included Anne Spirn from the Board; Esther Johnson, descendant of one of the first families to settle in Nahant; Richard Smith, architect for the restoration; Robert Wilson, photographer for the Artifacts project; and Mai-Lis Tria, who created the beautiful tour brochure that was given to each attendee. The Friends were there to serve refreshments and help answer questions. Staffers from Senator Brendan Crighton's office attended the morning and afternoon events.

Banned Books Week. The Library put together a collection of books, both classics and recent titles which have been banned from other libraries in the past. The books are hidden behind a white cover and some Caution tape, with a statement as to why they had been banned. The collection is getting some interest and Sharon has discussed the issue with a few patrons, including one visitor from Germany who said that banning "did not go well" in her country.

Farmer's Market. Nahant Public Library was at the final Farmer's Market of the season on September 17, offering Friends of the Library books and tote bags to the public. Sharon also asked people if they would ratify the Bill of Rights that day, which was Constitution Day.

Friends Giant Book Sale. The Friends of the Nahant Public Library held their Giant Book Sale on Pleasant Street on Saturday, September 24, 9:00-4:00. Over \$1,000 in donated books were sold. Many thanks to Emily Potts, Christine Stevens, and all the volunteers who worked hard to make the Sale happen. Thanks also to the Council on Aging (Mary Miner, Linda Peterson) for providing hot dogs at midday. The remaining books are still being offered this week on the main floor and third floor of the library.

Nahant Reads Together: *Educated by Tara Westover.* Nahant is reading the memoir about a member of an Idaho survivalist family who brings herself out of that situation through formal education. The themes of lifelong education and education outside of the mainstream will be explored. Starting October 8, each Saturday will offer an activity at 4:00:

Oct. 8 view the film about the Wampanoag language project, "We Still Live Here"

Oct. 15 view the film about dance education in NYC schools, "PS Dance"

Oct. 22 view the film about the little bookstore that could, "Hello, Bookstore"

Oct. 29 books discussion with Sharon Hawkes

Nov. 5 Indie Author Day, enjoying our neighbors who write

Library Classes. Library classes began again at Johnson Elementary School on Monday, October 3. Children's Librarian Emma Monahan will be working with the younger grades, and Sharon will work with grades 4-6 to integrate information literacy skills into the curriculum.

Next digitization project. Sharon will be working with Robert Wilson to photograph the dedications in the front of the volumes of the 1819 collection that the Library still owns. She will connect with Boston Public Library to have them uploaded to Digital Commonwealth, to join the Mass Memories Road Show, Florence Johnson Herbarium, and Art and Artifacts collections.

Memory Café. The Nahant Village Church, Council on Aging, Greater Lynn Senior Services, and the Library are once again partnering to provide services to people living with cognitive decline and their caregivers. A support group for caregivers began on September 20 at the Church, and the Memory Café will begin again at the Library on October 13 at 10:30.

ARPA funds for staff. The Board of Selectmen agreed to award some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by the town to staff that remained working during the Massachusetts COVID-19 State of Emergency, March 17, 2020 to June 14, 2021. Sharon and Carolyn each received a premium in an amount equal to about 90% of a week's salary. They thank the town for their generosity on behalf of town employees who worked during the pandemic.

Enchroma glasses. The Enchroma company makes specially filtered glasses to help people with certain types of color blindness to see color more correctly. Nahant Public Library has a pair for adults and a pair for children in its "Library of Things" collection, but they have not been borrowed. Enchroma recently reached out to the Library and donated two more pairs in exchange for a little publicity, which the Library provided in a press release and post on its social media. The donation would potentially enable the Library to donate a pair to someone who borrows the glasses and finds that they work.

Door. Hayden Safe & Lock visited the library on September 14 to take a look at the side door, which has still not been completely right since its lock repair in 2018. Currently, it cannot be locked to the outside without also being locked on the inside, a fire safety violation. They will submit an estimate on the repair.

Department of Energy Resources. Two inspectors from B2Q Associates inspected the building to make recommendations about adding a heat pump for cost savings under the Green Communities initiative. Sharon suggested instead that there should probably be a more comprehensive upgrade to a HVAC system and electrical upgrades. They discussed how this might be added to the building. B2Q is preparing a proposal to submit for grant funding to study heating options at the Library, including electrification.

April vacation program. Emma has coordinated with the Norcross Wildlife Foundation of Wales, MA to procure a grant to host a live animal program called [Eyes on Owls](#) for the Library's April vacation program. Thanks to the Foundation for offering this boost to children's vacation programming.

Wifi hotspots. The state hotspot program ends this month. The Library will transition to owning two hotspots for loan, with a contract through T-Mobile.

New museum pass. The Library will be adding the North Shore Children's Museum of Peabody to its list of discount passes. The Museum is a play-based facility geared toward children ages 2-10, which was born out of the CuriousCity pop-up that was open for 9 months in 2019 and early 2020.

New Business.

Sharon solicited input from the Board about its "Library of Things" policy. Various ideas were proposed including deposits for non-residents and pickup only (not shipping state-wide), but the consensus seemed to be that it should be restricted to Nahant residents only. Sharon will investigate this possibility and draft a uniform "Library of Things" policy.

Adjourned: 7:01 PM