

**Nahant Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
February 21, 2023**

**Board Members Present:** Chris Stevens, Anne Spirn, Dan Munnelly

**Others Present:** Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

**Convened:** 6:33 PM

**Acceptance of the Minutes of December 13, 2022.** Motion made by Anne Spirn for acceptance of the Minutes of December 13, 2022. Seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

**Acceptance of the Minutes of January 17, 2023.** Motion made by Anne Spirn for acceptance of the Minutes of December 13, 2022. Seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

**Director's Report.**

**Annual Report 2022.** Sharon submitted the annual town report on January 25.

**Telephones.** Three new VoIP telephones have been installed and activated, and a user manual was provided in PDF and online formats. Town hall also set up a voice message box for the phone number.

**STEM playgroup.** The Lynn Schools CFCE STEM playgroup has had two meetings so far and is a nice addition to the children's offerings.

**Winter vacation programs.** This morning, Alex the Jester performed for all ages at Nahant Town Hall. Alex Feldman has performed all over the world, combining balancing, juggling, music, and general hilarity into a delightful program. His performance is based on the medieval jesters of Europe, so there is also an educational side to his performance.

**Nahant Reads Together: Our Town.** This month, Nahant Public Library invites everyone to read a play that you probably read or saw in high school: *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. Activities in March will explore the similarities and differences between Nahant and the fictional Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, considering what it means to be part of a small New England town. There will be book discussions on March

3 at 8 a.m. after the Village Breakfast at Nahant Village Church and again on March 18 at 4:00 at the Library. On March 11 at 4:00, some of the town's local leaders will read from *Our Town*. And on March 25 at 4:00, Sharon will explore the antiquarian literature and the personalities that created the Nahant Library in 1819.

**1819 Collection.** Sharon is corresponding with the Ontario County Historical Society and the University of Liverpool. Liverpool has a library that was originally the Mechanics' and Apprentices Library created by William Wood in 1823. Sharon hopes to receive a scan of a brochure on the creation of that library. As of now, it still seems that Nahant's collection was his first library project. Subsequent projects included mercantile and mechanics libraries (especially in Boston and New York), which were subscription libraries to allow members of those professions to better themselves. He also put books into prisons and on naval ships. A presentation on Sharon's findings will be held on Saturday, March 25 at 4:00 at the Library.

**Banned in Massachusetts.** Sharon has been asked to join Andrea Fiorillo, Co-Chair of Mass Library System's Intellectual Freedom Committee, to talk about book banning and censorship in Massachusetts on Thursday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Salem Athenaeum. The program will be live and virtual.

#### **New Business.**

**Budget FY2024.** The Selectmen's budget for fiscal year 2023-24 came in \$2,115 short of the Library Board of Trustees' proposed budget. By state law, the Library must spend 19.5% of its total operating budget on circulating materials (\$50,048 this year) but the appropriation is only \$46,104, leaving \$3,944 to be procured from other lines or outside the budget. The Library already uses external sources to cover material purchases and programming services. The consensus of the Trustees is to address a letter to the town administration seeking a proposed plan to close the budget gap particularly in the materials budget lines.

**NY Times, Library Love Letter.** In the interest of getting some great marketing photographs, Anne Spirn has volunteered to attend some upcoming events to take pictures.

#### **Old Business.**

**Library of Things Policy.** Sharon informed the Trustees that replacement costs for books do not remain with the library, but go back to the town and, similarly, Library of Things replacement costs would go to the town, not the library. The policy includes a form that borrowers of items priced over \$200 must sign acknowledging responsibility for the item and effectively entering into a contract with the Library.

Daniel Munnelly made a motion to adopt the Library of Things Policy, seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved unanimously by roll call vote:

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

**Adjourned:** 7:16 PM