

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
June 20, 2023**

Board Members Present: Anne Spirn, Dan Munnelly, Linda Jenkins

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering, Long Range Planning Focus Group (Paul Mador, Emily Potts, John Wynne Jr., Mary Miner)

Convened: 6:33 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of April 25, 2023. Tabled.

Acceptance of the Minutes of May 16, 2023. Board President Anne Spirn requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of May 16, 2023. Motion made by Daniel Munnelly, seconded by Anne Spirn, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Daniel Munnelly – Aye
Linda Jenkins – Abstain

Long Range Planning. The Long Range Planning Focus Group completed its work on June 2. Having brainstormed over the elements of a Vision Statement for Nahant, those elements were then connected with a list of library service responses, honed to align with the activities the Group wanted to see emphasized in the future. The Trustees thanked the members of the focus group and expressed interest in hearing their thoughts about the draft plan. The focus group emphasized that expansive diversity is the bedrock which should inform all that the library does and that their efforts were thorough and well thought out.

The vote to accept was tabled until the July meeting.

Fundraising Committee. Anne Spirn met with Town Manager Tony Barletta regarding the director search and the goals of the Library trustees, among other things. She reports that the Town is amenable to covering capital expenditures, perhaps through grants or other funding sources, but is less willing to support/increase operating expenses. Spirn informed the Town Manager of the Trustees' ultimate goal to increase staff salaries and numbers by regaining a position given up previously. Barletta and Spirn seem to agree that budget discussions should be more direct between the two parties rather than having the Library Director as a middleman. As a result of this meeting Anne Spirn began thinking about ways to fundraise for a named director position that would free up some money for other salaries. Sharon Hawkes encouraged the Trustees to continue to remind the Town Manager of the return on investment the library provides and how the library can help the town disseminate information. Daniel Munnelly reiterated how minor the Library budget is in the scope of the overall budget.

Director's Report.

Staffing. Tom Mazzaferro, the Library custodian from the Department of Public Works, retired this past month. The town administrator is looking into having a cleaning service replace him. Tom was always friendly, courteous, and helpful. The Library staff wishes him all the best.

Fundraising. The Friends received a gift of \$575 to fund the Music Series again this summer. The Apollo Club concert fundraiser was held at town hall on Sunday, June 4 at 3:00, raising nearly \$500 on that day, and an additional anonymous donor made an additional donation following the program.

The first Market by the Sea this season will be on July 15. The Friends will sell books, tote bags, and Library logo mugs.

1819 Collection. The metadata descriptions of the digital photos from the William Wood Book Collection of 1819 were accepted by Boston Public Library on May 25, and the collection should be uploaded to Digital Commonwealth this month. Many thanks to Robert Wilson for his photography, Joyce Haynes for her assistance with finding full text ebooks for the metadata, and to Nichole Shea of BPL for her thorough work to prepare the metadata for upload. The research files created by the project were shared with the Center for Fiction in Brooklyn (formerly the Mercantile Library of NY, founded by William Wood), the Nahant Historical Society, Ontario County Historical Society, and Wood Library in Canandaigua, NY.

CPC Library Inventory Grant. A final report on the activities around these collections was submitted to the Community Preservation Committee on May 26. The furniture is listed in the Library's PastPerfect database, and the William Wood Book Collection of 1819, the historic artwork, and the Florence Johnson Herbarium are all listed online at [DigitalCommonwealth.org](https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org).

Art Frames. Sharon will work with the Friends toward getting some of the historic artwork framed. The list includes a children's illustration by Rockwell contemporary Harold Anderson and the drawing of the old stone schoolhouse.

Map Restoration. The Library and the Historical Society jointly own the Alonzo Lewis map of 1842, which hangs in Delivery Hall at the library and is digitized at <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:hx121488w>. The map, watercolor and ink on paper, needs conservation, and the Historical Society, the Library, and the Friends of the Library will partner together to have it conserved.

Little Free Library. On June 6, the Little Free Library cupboard was installed at Short Beach for the season. Located on the beach access across from Spring Road, the LFL will be filled with donated or ex-Library books throughout the summer. Take a book, leave a book, no library card required.

Children's Summer Reading Program. The Children's Summer Reading Program will be held July 5-29, with the theme, "Find Your Voice!" Activities will include:

- Storytime every Thursday at **10:30 a.m.** at Flash Road Playground
- Crafternoon every Wednesday at **3:00 p.m.** at the library
- **July 11th:** Yoga with Elissa Shoreman, 10:30-11:30 a.m. with two, 30 minute sessions, one for ages 0-7 and one for ages 8-12 at Flash Road Playground
- **July 18th:** Insect Safari with Professor Bugman, 10:30 a.m. at Flash Road Playground
- **July 26th:** Music with Philip Alexander, 10:30 a.m. at Flash Road Playground

Participants will receive a bag of goodies and will be challenged to read throughout the month, with chances to win a basket of goodies at the end of the month.

Discussion series on racism. Sharon is working with Rev. Scott Elliott of Nahant Village Church on a discussion series on racism this summer. The text being discussed is *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving.

MassCat to NOBLE. The outgoing director of the NOBLE network indicated that they were working on a much lower-priced proposal for moving to the NOBLE consortium and catalog. What has stopped Nahant Public Library in the past was strictly price (current costs are \$1,400 annually to be with the MassCat system and NOBLE had offered \$25,000 annually in the past). With MassCat anxious to remove all non-school libraries from the network and offering a 3-step grant program to accomplish it, it may be worth talking to NOBLE and other nearby networks.

New Business.

Director Search. Sharon began the month with formally announcing her retirement. She plans to work part time through the summer months and complete her tenure by the end of September. Want ads have been placed in the Mass Board of Library Commissioners' job board, the Simmons job board, and the appropriate MBLC listservs. The Town sent the job posting to the Mass. Municipal Association.

Tony Barletta would like a copy of the potential candidate questions to pass by town counsel.

Applications will be received by Kristin Taylor and forwarded or scanned and forwarded to members of the search committee by email. The search committee will meet to review and select candidates.

Old Business.

Library Program Policy. One minor edit, Vote tabled until July.

Adjourned: 8:16 PM