

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
April 25, 2023**

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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:32 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of March 21, 2023. Board President Chris Stevens requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of March 21, 2023. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Chris Stevens, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Chris Stevens – Aye

Director's Report.

Remote meetings may continue. The State of Massachusetts has extended the ability to hold online municipal meetings through March 31, 2025.

Building. Homer Contracting visited on March 31 and loosened the windows that weren't opening. They are still searching for the proper cremone bolts and did not have a timeline for the delivery of sandstone for the northeast window.

HVAC assessment. The town of Nahant received a \$15,000 Massachusetts Energy Technical Assistance grant to conduct an assessment of the Library's HVAC needs, with a view toward providing green energy solutions such as thermal energy. The assessment, from the Department of Energy Resources, will take place sometime this summer.

Fundraising. A new major donation of \$1,000 was added in March. It looks like there is not enough interest to run the Scrabble tournament, but the Friends are working on a project for town meeting on May 20.

State Aid. The second and final payment for State Aid to Public Libraries (SAPL) has been sent, making a total state funding for this year of \$5,555.76. State legislators, voting now on next year's budget, appear to be in favor of the MBLC-requested SAPL increase, from \$16,800,000 to \$17,600,000.

Book bans. Book bans and censorship laws continue to escalate around the country. Nahant Public Library has seen no book challenges or questions during this time.

April vacation programs. Emma arranged for two special programs for the April vacation. On Tuesday, April 18, Eyes on Owls presented a live owl program. This presentation was paid for thanks to a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. Over 100 people attended! The following day, Emma offered one of her popular Crafternoons,

an hour of stories and crafts. On Thursday, there was a regular Story Time in the morning and a coloring night that evening. On Friday, April 21, the engaging Through Me to You Puppetry returned with a new puppet program, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Nahant Library.

Nahant Reads Together: Our Town. The final program in the Nahant Reads Together: Our Town was a presentation by Sharon on William Wood and the efforts that created the Nahant Library collection in 1819. That program was held Saturday, March 25 at the library, and a Zoom version of the presentation is archived on YouTube.

1819 Collection. Sharon has been invited to give a talk on William Wood and the development of Nahant's original book collection at Wood Library in Canandaigua, NY on May 13. Wood retired to Canandaigua in 1826, and continued his philanthropic work, including planting trees along the main street of that town. The public library there, formed in 1859, two years after Wood's passing, was named in his memory.

Third grade art history. Johnson Elementary School's third grade visit on March 22 went very well, with students examining the art and drawing their own portraits, then landscapes of their homes in both a realistic manner and using abstract expressionist elements.

Long Range Planning. The survey received 98 responses, gathered online, in the library, town hall, and at the Community Breakfast. The Planning Focus Group met for the first time on Friday, April 21, and will continue meeting for four more sessions, to envision Nahant's future and to prioritize those services that will help Nahant meet its goals. The staff, in turn, performed a SWOT analysis on the Library's internal strengths and weakness and its external opportunities and threats on April 20. The Board of Trustees SWOT is below. The draft plan will come before the Board for consideration in late June.

Library of Things. Emma Monahan gave a brief overview to the Trustees of her project to inventory and upgrade the early learning backpack collection. She will be assisted by two student volunteers, Nikki Carr and Fiona Flebbe. The new policy for learning backpacks would read: Learning backpacks are a great, interactive item for you and your child to enjoy at home, featuring books, toys, and games. Each household is allowed **one** backpack at a time. Once a backpack is returned, a different one may be checked out. Adult patrons are highly encouraged to use the check list included in the backpack to keep track of the items inside, which the librarian will also check once returned. This will help you and your family, as well as the library staff, keep the backpacks consistent and organized for all of our patrons.

Emma Monahan requested a Motion to adopt the new policy for learning backpacks. Motion made by Anne Spirn, seconded by Daniel Munnelly, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

Since Carolyn has been doing some collection management work on the second floor, she was able to carve out some space to house the Library of Things collection. Sharon created signage, and Carolyn is working to catalog some of the items that have not been cataloged before, such as the memory kits, bins of memorabilia from the 1920s through the 1970s. Having signage and a location for these items should make it easier to browse and promote the collection.

Apollo Club of Boston. The Apollo Club men's chorus returns for its popular concert of choral music, spirituals, show tunes, and sea chanties on Sunday, June 4 at 3:00. Admission is a donation to the Friends.

Farmers market. The market has been renamed Nahant Market by the Sea, and will continue to be held on Saturdays from 10-1 on the following dates:

- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 14

New Business.

Trustees SWOT Analysis of the Library. As part of the long range planning process, the Trustees assessed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the Library.

Strengths:

- Staff is knowledgeable and involved
- Community loyalty toward the Library
- Building and its location
- Programming is abundant and relevant
- Grants extend the Library's capabilities
- Collaborations/partnerships extend the Library's reach
- Strong, helpful Friends group

Weaknesses:

- Building – many needs, including space limitations
- Perception by some that building needs are too costly
- Salaries v. the need to attract qualified professionals
- Lack of staff
- Budget

Opportunities (from outside that Nahant should take advantage of):

- Volunteer development
- Fundraising, donations to the Friends
- Incorporating new technologies
- Develop and market the Library of Things
- Expand Little Free Libraries
- Expand local history programming through connection to local talent and authors

Threats (from outside that may impede our optimal way of working)

- Town hall willingness to fully fund the Library
- Potential book banning/censorship issue

Adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to open session, pursuant to MGL. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel 7:18 PM