

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
July 26, 2023**

Board Members Present: Anne Spirn, Linda Jenkins

Board Members Absent: Dan Munnelly

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering, Anthony Cammalleri (Item reporter)

Convened: 6:38 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of June 20, 2023. Board President Anne Spirn made a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of June 20, 2023. Seconded by Linda Jenkins, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Linda Jenkins – Aye

Building Committee

Sharon reported that a company will conduct an HVAC assessment for the Library next week. Anne is particularly interested in whether our current electrical capacity is sufficient to support an electrical HVAC system. Sharon has also raised the issue of having a generator installed at the Library, as it is the only Town building without one.

Director's Report.

Budget 2023. The fiscal year 2022-23 budget is now complete, with \$2,625.93 returning to the town.

Custodian. Town hall will negotiate with DPW for the hiring of a full time worker, part of whose time will be spent on custodial duties at the Library. This is similar to what was done in the past. The Library has been without a custodian since mid-May.

Fundraising. The first Market by the Sea this season was held on July 15, 10-1. The Friends sold books, tote bags, and Library logo mugs. The next one will be on August 19.

Giant Book Sale. The Friends of the Nahant Public Library will hold its annual Book Sale on Saturday, July 29, 9:00-4:00, on Pleasant Street outside the library.

Public Library Services for Strong Communities. The Public Library Association released its triannual public library services report last month. Libraries nationwide continue to show strength in offering paths to literacy, education, civic engagement, and public access to information resources. However, funding and staffing remain a persistent issue, and “lack of investment in infrastructure also hinders services and access for community members. 40% of library buildings have not undergone major renovations in

over two decades. For libraries that have renovated their public spaces in recent years, a focus has been on creating or updating programming and meeting spaces, suggesting a continued orientation towards libraries as vital social hubs and learning centers.” The full report can be viewed at

https://www.ala.org/pla/sites/ala.org.pla/files/content/data/PLA_Services_Survey_Report_2023.pdf

NOBLE consortium proposal. Nahant Public Library is currently part of the MassCat consortium, a resource sharing network (integrated library system, patron catalog, holds capability, and interlibrary delivery service). By paying a membership fee to Mass Library System (currently \$1,000 annually), Nahant enjoys the use of the MassCat catalog, interlibrary loaning and van delivery, and other assistance with training, troubleshooting, and the cataloging of library materials.

In 2022, Mass Library System voted to only allow secondary schools and special libraries (hospital, museum, etc.) to become new members. <https://masscat.org/benefits-of-membership/> They are interested in the ten public libraries that are current members to find other consortia. There is currently no mandate to move, but there may be a five-year window before it becomes mandatory. They have offered to underwrite such moves over a three-year period – 75% the first year, 67% the second year, and 50% the third year. Three public libraries are migrating out beginning this summer. At least two libraries that regularly share with Nahant have decided not to move.

Nahant is surrounded by libraries on the NOBLE network (North of Boston Library Exchange). Lynn, Swampscott, and Marblehead are all NOBLE members. The consortium has access to 2.6 million titles in its network belonging to 17 public and 7 academic libraries. NOBLE has recently boosted the cutoff requirements to be in their Associate Member program to a collection of less than 20,000 cataloged items, for which we would qualify. The annual fee to be part of that program is \$11,669. There would also be an offset from the Mass Board of Library Commissioners’ Small Libraries in Network Program, of \$2,125. There would also be additional costs – our participation in Libby would increase (from \$400 to \$1,200), and there would most likely be costs involved in moving the collection to the new network.

Calculations of Expenses, Migration to NOBLE Network

Expense	Mass Library System	NOBLE
Catalog and related	\$1,000	\$11,669
Overdrive/Libby	\$400	\$1,200
TOTAL	\$1,400	\$12,869
YEAR 1		
Offset MLS, 75%		\$9,652
Offset MBLC		\$2,125
Our cost, year one	\$1,400	\$1,092

YEAR 2		
Offset MLS, 67%		\$8,622
Offset MBLC		\$2,125
Our cost, year two	\$1,400	\$2,122
YEAR 3		
Offset MLS, 50%		\$6,435
Offset MBLC		\$2,125
Our cost, year three	\$1,400	\$4,310
YEAR 4		
Offset MLS, 0%		
Offset MBLC		\$2,125
Our cost, year four	\$1,400	\$10,744

What is unknown are the fluctuations of any of these figures from year to year.

There may be additional costs incurred.

Once Nahant agrees to move, it cannot move back.

1819 Collection. The collection went live in Digital Commonwealth on June 28. There are 253 listings, three of which are documents pertaining to the creation of the collection. The rest are the titles remaining that formed the original book collection. This makes the fourth digitized collection, the others being the Art and Artifacts collection, the Florence Johnson Herbarium, and the Mass. Memories Road Show collection (this last is listed under UMass Boston's Joseph P. Healey Library). All four collections can be accessed from Nahant Public Library's Digital Commonwealth Collections page, <https://nahantlibrary.org/digital-commonwealth-collections/>

The photography was paid for by a grant from the Nahant Community Preservation Committee.

Discussion series on racism. Copies of the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving are available to borrow at the Library and online through Hoopla. The five-part discussion series, beginning on August 6 through September 10, will include discussions facilitated by Rev. Elliott of Nahant Village Church, The First Church in Swampscott Congregational, Essex County Community Organization (ECCO), and Sharon Hawkes.

Children's Summer Reading Program. The Children's Summer Reading Program ends this week with children's musician Philip Alexander on July 26, 10:30 a.m. at Flash Road Playground.

New Business.

Library of Things Policy. A portion of the Library of Things policy was adjusted to allow the children's Learning Backpacks to be checked out on a child's library card in the presence of an adult and to clarify who the responsible adult is for a child with a library card.

Anne Spirn made a motion to amend the Library of Things policy as written.

Motion was seconded by Linda Jenkins, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye

Linda Jenkins – Aye

Old Business.

Long Range Plan

Anne Spirn requested a Motion to table a vote on the Long Range Plan. Motion made by Linda Jenkins, seconded by Anne Spirn, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye

Linda Jenkins – Aye

Library Program Policy. The Library staff develop programming consistent with the needs and interests of the community which includes a wide range of diverse perspectives and opinions. This proposed policy provides context for library programs and creates a process for residents and cardholders to request reconsideration of a program.

Linda Jenkins made a motion to accept the Program Policy as written. Motion was seconded by Anne Spirn, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye

Linda Jenkins – Aye

Director Search. Anne summarized the status of the Director Search. The committee has conducted three screening interviews and invited all three for a second interview and tour of the building. Two have been completed and one is scheduled for next week.

Adjourned: 7:20 PM