

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
August 15, 2023**

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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering, Sherry Smith - resident

Convened: 6:35 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of April 25, 2023. Board President Anne Spirn requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of April 25, 2023. Motion made by Daniel Munnelly, seconded by Linda Jenkins, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

Acceptance of the Minutes of July 26, 2023. Board President Anne Spirn requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of July 26, 2023. Motion made by Daniel Munnelly, seconded by Linda Jenkins, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

Fundraising Report. Sharon relayed the Friends financial report including Total Assets of \$102,972.42 including the Building Fund which is currently at \$86,341.14.

Anne Spirn brought up a previous major donation that the donor claims was not acknowledged. Discussion ensued about the Trustees receiving information about donors and sending their own acknowledgement letters. Anne Spirn will follow up with Friends president, Emily Potts.

Director's Report.

NOBLE consortium proposal. Sharon drafted a letter to Mass Library System for the Trustees to gain a better understanding of the proposed move out of the MassCat network.

The Trustees requested an additional sentence emphasizing the cost difference even after the generous transitional support from MLS.

Daniel Munnelly made a motion to endorse the letter as amended, seconded by Linda Jenkins, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

Custodian. Town hall now says it will contract a cleaning woman temporarily. Sharon met with her, and she is to begin on Friday. The Library has been without a custodian since mid-May.

The Trustees emphasize that this must only be a temporary solution and will follow up at their September meeting.

Fundraising. Upon reading about a possible move to NOBLE Network, and how that may be difficult to afford, a donor gave \$1,000 to the Library to help. Funds will be assigned to the town's Library Donations account. Someone else gave \$250, but it is unclear if it is related to the news article.

The next Market by the Sea this season will be held on August 19, 10-1.

Giant Book Sale. A last-minute rainy weather forecast forced The Friends of the Nahant Public Library to hold its annual Giant Book Sale on Sunday, July 30, 11:00-4:00, on Pleasant Street outside the library. Lisa Haley brought her guitar and sang, adding a festive mood to the day. The Friends invited everyone to "top a tote" by purchasing one of their tote bags and filling it for \$20. The Friends earned over \$1,300 on book sale day, and an additional \$98 the following week.

ARIS report. Sharon submitted the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) to the Mass Board of Library Commissioners on August 1. There was a moderate increase in circulations of 1,293 items, 904 of them physical books, and attendance was way up due to additional programming and school classes. Overall, participation at the Library has returned to pre-pandemic levels. Sharon's narrative report to the Trustees is appended.

Overcoming Racism. Thirty copies of the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving have been loaned, and 26 people attended the first of five discussions on race. Additional activities include accessing a video through Kanopy and reading articles referenced by the book. The discussion series will continue through September 10.

Let Freedom Read. The Commonwealth's library organizations – Mass Board of Library Commissioners, Mass Library Association, Mass Library System, and Mass School Library Association – are partnering together to hold a read-in on Saturday, September 30 on the lawn or indoors at the Library. Residents will be invited to bring a lawn chair and just read a book, silently, for however long they like. This is reminiscent of the silent read-in at Bonners Ferry, Idaho, to protest the book ban demands and threats there in 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/05/us/idaho-bonnerr-ferry-library-books/index.html>

Old Business.

Long Range Plan. Sharon is asking for the Board's approval of the Long Range Plan 2024-2029, prior to including measurable objectives and annual plans. The main Plan is due at the MBLC by Sunday, October 1, and the first Annual Plan for FY25 will be due

by December 1 of this year. The Long Range Plan must be on file at MBLC in order for the Library to apply for a LSTA grants for FY25. A Letter of Intent to apply for a grant in FY25 will be due by December 1.

For comparison, Sharon invites the Trustees to look at the current Plan, online at <https://nahantlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/10/Long-Range-Plan-FY2020-2024.pdf> This Plan is fleshed out with measurable objectives and deadlines for completion. The Library was able to fulfill many of its goals in spite of the pandemic!

Anne Spirn felt that the Trustees had not fully engaged in their SWOT of the Library and provided a fleshed out SWOT assessment.

Anne Spirn requested a Motion to accept the revised SWOT. Motion made by Daniel Munnelly, seconded by Linda Jenkins, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

Anne Spirn requested a Motion to accept the Long Range Plan with the new Trustees SWOT appended. Motion made by Daniel Munnelly, seconded by Linda Jenkins, and Approved by roll call vote:

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

Director Search. The Trustees announced the new library director will be Nori Morganstein. They believe she will be able to build on legacy and continue her community-oriented programming. They emphasized that had a tough choice between two well-qualified candidates.

Nori received a contract from the Trustees and, though she received a form hire letter from the Town Administrator, Anne Spirn will revise and correct the form letter and ask the Town Administrator to resend.

Sharon Hawkes emphasized the complicated position of the director who is hired, evaluated, and fired by the Trustees. They do so within the budget and benefits package provided by the Town. The Town may also train and provide support to the director with regard to state and local regulations, but the director is answerable to the Trustees.

Adjourned: 7:39 PM