

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
January 16, 2024**

Board Members Present: Anne Spirn, Linda Jenkins

Board Members Absent: Dan Munnelly

Others Present: Nori Morganstein, Carolyn Ziering

Convened: 6:47 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of December 12, 2023. Board President Anne Spirn requested a Motion for acceptance of the Minutes of December 12, 2023. Motion made by Linda Jenkins, seconded by Anne Spirn, and Approved by roll call vote:

Anne Spirn – Aye
Linda Jenkins – Aye

Director's Report.

Building. Nori attended the Community Preservation Committee Meeting on Zoom on December 4th to learn about the CPC grant application process. After the last Board Meeting, she reached out to Sharon to find out more about the Envelope Building Project Phase 3 and any leftover funding the library may have to accomplish building goals. There is not much left over from the grant money from 2020, and the library will need to submit further grants to accomplish the rest of the Envelope Project. This year's applications need to be submitted by January 16. Nori recommends that the Building Committee meet throughout the course of the year (2024) to discuss plans for funding future projects and working on a CPC grant for the following year. The MHC grant deadline is March 15 (with a 50% reimbursable matching grant program established to support preservation of properties in the State Register of Historic Places).

Hours. Attached is a record of the number of patrons who used the Nahant Public Library between the hours of 7pm and 8pm, since September. It does not appear to be a well utilized hour. Nori recommends the library closing at 7pm on Thursdays (like Tuesday), and instead having the library open one more hour on Saturdays, when the library is mostly busy. Attached is a survey, Nori would like to ask patrons before any changes would be made. The library could post the survey both inside and online, and allow library patrons at least four weeks to fill out the survey. Nori and Carolyn came up with a couple of questions to ask about programming as well.

Book Sale. The ongoing Book Sale is running on the third floor of the Library. Donations to the Book Sale are welcome any time the Library is open. The Friends of the Nahant Public Library sold mugs, tote bags, greeting cards, and local books at a table in the library throughout the month of the December. The library continues to receive donations for the sale on a regular basis.

Financial report. Attached are the Appropriated and Non Appropriated Report Summaries through January. The library is on track. Nori is beginning to spend from the Non Appropriated funds for Library books and materials because the budget is short a few thousand dollars to cover the costs we need to spend this fiscal year for the state requirement on materials spending.

The library received a \$300 Cultural Council Grant for a Bird Buddy, a smart bird feeder. Nori was notified on Friday January 5th. The Bird Buddy is a smart bird feeder that takes photos and videos of birds that come to it. It also identifies the birds and educates the user about the birds who visit. The library will be able to educate families about all of the local birds that visit the area. The bird feeder is solar powered and will require little maintenance. It will bring children and nature lovers together. Nori and Emma submitted the application for the grant in the fall.

Also attached is the FY2025 Budget, updated rationale pages, requesting more funding from the Town for an IT line item on the budget, a higher Books/Materials budget, and higher salaries for the Adult Services Librarian and the Children's Librarian. Nori submitted all of the required budget documents on Wednesday December 27, and she attended the first Budget Meeting with the Town on Wednesday January 10, along with Library Trustee Chair, Anne Spirn.

Annual Report. Nori finished writing up the 2023 Annual Report to submit to the Town. Nori is happy to report that more library patrons have visited the Nahant Public Library in 2023 than they have in years past (including in 2019 before Covid). Each year, the library has progressively had more people come in. The library has also seen a gradual increase in digital materials circulating. Physical materials (not digital) are almost back to the numbers they were before Covid.

Volunteers. We have had 3 new volunteers show interest in joining the library. One is a teen who has started helping Emma in the Children's Room once a week. One is helping the library set up a new program called "One on One Tech Help" once a week, which begins 1/16. And one will be helping to do art classes with families in the future, once all paperwork is settled.

Programming:

Weekly Tuesdays –Tech Help Drop-In. Patrons can receive free hands-on assistance with most of their technology needs. We just ask that they have their passwords on hand. The library can help with: printing, emailing, using MS Word, attaching documents and photos, making copies, cell phone questions, tablet questions, eBook questions and more. The library cannot repair broken devices or enter private info like credit card numbers online.

Mystery Book Club (1/11) and the second meeting will be (2/8)

Valentine's Day Vase Program (2/13)

Virtual program: author and craftsperson Peter Bellerby Discusses “The Globemakers: The Curious Story of an Ancient Craft.” (2/22)

Virtual program “Q&A with Author Erica Cirino discussing *Thicker than Water: The Quest for Solutions to the Plastic Crisis*” (3/4).

March: Johnson School Art Show (Reception on 3/7)

Indie Author Day (3/16)

Passive Programming:

Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt 12/6-12/30. It was left out for 4 weeks and **36** patrons of varying ages participated.

Snowballs in a Jar 1/2 -1/12. Patrons could guess how many cotton balls were in a jar. The patron who guessed the right number or closest number by 1/12 will win two free general admission passes to the Wenham Museum in Wenham Mass (sent to us by the Museum). Nori put this out after the candy canes came down at the end of December.

Becoming a Climate Resilience Hub: Climate Resilience Hubs are community institutions — libraries, churches, schools, nonprofits, local businesses and others — that help educate residents about extreme weather preparedness and other impacts of climate change. All hubs are expected to display the Climate Resilience Hub window decal and have brochures about extreme weather preparedness available to their patrons (digital copies are provided by CREW). All hubs are also expected to organize at least one yearly educational event about emergency preparedness. Nori started the process of getting the Nahant Public Library setup as a Resilience Hub, which is free to do, and will connect the library to more free resources across the state. Nori spoke to a Climate Resilience Hub Advisor on 12/20. And has a correspondence started with Rachael Boyce, a local Climate Justice and Resilience Organizer with CREW, working on getting the library recognized as a Hub, and getting the right materials to educate Nahant patrons for specific local needs.

New Business.

Feasibility Study. Nori also attended an Electrification meeting on Thursday 1/11 with Tony and Victoria Masone from the Town of Nahant, and Daniel Nelligan and Gabrielle Cole of B2Q Associates, who conducted a library heat pump feasibility report. Some of the numbers changed since the report was first conducted. The idea behind the report was to gain a better understanding of the options for phasing out fossil fuels in the facility in pursuit of a longer-term more sustainable option, and to learn about how the electrification of the library can be used in a Green Communities Grant. The new numbers are shown here:

Proposed Electrification Option	Estimated Heat Pump Heating Capacity	Estimated Heat Pump Cooling Capacity	Estimated Annual Electric Savings	Estimated Annual Fossil Fuel Savings	Estimated Annual Energy Cost Savings	Opinion of Probable Cost	Estimated Potential Utility Incentive	Estimated Net Cost
	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>	<i>kWh</i>	<i>therms</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Option 1: VRF Heat Pumps w/ Supplemental Boiler	64	56	-34,097	2,799	-\$4,143	\$697,900	\$194,534	\$503,366

Though the majority of the cost could be covered by a grant, the Library's monthly electricity costs would increase. The Trustees are interested in contacting selectman Mark Cullinan, and preservation architect Lynne Spencer for their expertise.

Adjourned: 7:28 PM