

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
April 28, 2026**

Board Members Present: Anne Spirn, Linda Jenkins, Anne Bromer

Others Present: Nori Morganstein, Carolyn Ziering, Ilisa Hurowitz (Fundraising Consultant), Deyscha Smith (Item reporter)

Convened: 5:19 pm

Acceptance of the Minutes of March 13, 2026. Tabled until next meeting.

Director's Report.

Building Report. On Monday, March 16, the contractors from Campbell arrived at the library. Scott, the town custodian was on vacation. Nori was at a doctor's appointment. Nori heard from Town Hall after her appointment because they wanted to confirm with Nori before letting anyone in. But, by the time Nori got to the library an hour later, they were all gone. Nori told Town Hall to let contractors from Campbell in the library if they came by again. On Tuesday 3/17, they did not come to the library. Nori spoke with Richard Smith on Tuesday 3/17 and learned the contractors would begin work again on Wednesday 3/18.

Contractors began the next phase on Wednesday 3/18 with work in the basement and attic.

On Thursday 3/19, Nori spoke with Ryan (from Campbell) about the schedule of work. He requested she pull out more books in one corner. He explained they would soon be setting up staging in the Non Fiction Room. And they could cover everything else with plastic. Nori also met with Richard on Thursday to get his thoughts on the plasterwork needed in the Non Fiction Room.

Nori met with Richard on Friday 3/20 to talk about electrical service and placement for new light switches.

Nori spoke with Richard on Tuesday 3/31 to tell him that the contractors had stopped working for a few days. Richard and Nori spoke about plaster work needed. And Nori and Richard learned from Steve, of Campbell Construction Group, that the goal was to have plaster work start the following week.

On Wednesday 4/1, someone came to look at the staging for the plasterwork and said his boss would get back to the library.

On Monday 4/6, Nori reached out to Richard to see what the latest news was for finishing the envelope work. No crew had been to the library in 2 weeks. Nori asked if they needed

to extend the contract again, thinking it would take longer than a few days to do all that is left.

Nori met with Richard briefly on Wednesday 4/15 to go over the plasterwork needed. He asked for a quote for further plasterwork needed at the library from Campbell. Nori started the process for contract renewal. As of 4/18, no work had been done for 3 weeks. Vicky, Building Manager, sent a new contract with an end date for 5/15.

Campbell returned 4/21 to begin work on the plaster. However, no one came the following day on 4/22. There was someone at the library only briefly on Thursday 4/23. Nori reached out about the lack of work being done and was told the plaster guy had been sick. No one worked at the library for 1 month, and when they returned, it wasn't for long. There is no schedule as of Tuesday 4/28.

Finances. The second round of state aid has been posted. Nahant will receive the check sometime after 4/21. This year, the library received a total of \$7,002.33 in State Aid. The library and Friends of the Nahant Public Library received a docu-sign document from the anonymous donor for the beginning of the library's fundraising campaign. It was signed and confirmed by the Friends on Wednesday 4/22.

Outreach and meetings. Nori attended a Town Department Head meeting at Town Hall on Tuesday 3/17. Nori attended a webinar about Open Meeting Law on Friday 3/20 presented by the Attorney General's office and MBLC (MA Board of Library Commissioners). Nori helped the Friends of the Nahant Public library send out membership letters on Saturday 3/21. The library had a staff meeting on Wednesday 4/1. Nori attended the Nahant Village Church Community Breakfast on Friday 4/10 which was about the candidates running for Town Selectmen/Select board. Nori and Carolyn attended a Zoom meeting with NOBLE on Tuesday 4/14 to work on the patron-side of the catalog. Nori voted early at town hall on Wednesday 4/15. Nori met with Richard to discuss the latest work being done on the building on Wednesday 4/15. On Thursday 4/16, Nori met with 10 other NOBLE directors on Zoom, where budgets, over-rides, and decertification were discussed. Nori attended the Town Department Head meeting on Tuesday 4/21. Nori received the presentation from a webinar she missed for another meeting on 4/21 called "Digital and Online Fundraising," put on by John Chrastka, Executive Director of EveryLibrary.

Government Update.

The Nationwide Book Ban Bill (HR 7661 also known as "Stop the Sexualization of Children Act") passed through committee on March 19 and was passed forward with recommendation to the full House of Representatives. The bill is an anti-trans bill and includes everything from "Lewd and lascivious dancing" to "gender dysphoria or transgenderism as sexually oriented material" that would not be allowed. As stated in the article, *A Nationwide Book Ban Bill Has Been introduced in the House of Representatives* (2/2026): "It isn't a stretch to see a bill like this used to outright ban all books by or about LGBTQ+ people under the guise of it being "sexually oriented." We are currently waiting to see how far the bill goes. As of mid-March, the bill passed the House Committee on

Education and the Workforce and is moving toward a full House of Representatives vote. Over 100 organizations, including ALA (American Library Association) and the Authors Guild, oppose the bill, arguing it is a form of government censorship and an attack on marginalized voices.

From MBLC (Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners) on 4/2: Attempts to restrict access to library materials and services through challenges in Massachusetts public libraries have increased. In Massachusetts, historically there have been few if any attempts to censor library materials each year but according to data collected by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), formal challenges to library materials, programs, and services have increased by 50% since FY2023. In 2025, public libraries reported 33 formal challenges, more than seven years combined. This data does not include school libraries.

Informal challenges in public libraries also continued to increase with 86 libraries reporting 309 informal challenges to materials, services, and programs. One library reported 5,000 challenges to its meeting room use. This trend reflects national data collected by the American Library Association (ALA) which has tracked a sharp surge in censorship attempts since 2021 with a record high in 2023 of 1,247 attempts nationally. ALA ties the spike to organized movements and reports that 72% of attempts to censor books now come from pressure groups and government entities. Parents accounted for 16% of demands to censor books and 5% of challenges were brought by individual library users. The most common reasons for challenges were claims of obscenity for minors; LGBTQIA+ characters or themes; and topics of race, racism, inclusivity, equity, and social justice.

Meanwhile, for the 6th time, the Trump administration has zeroed out the budget for the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services), the only federal agency dedicated to public libraries and museums. The proposed budget for FY2027 would not only ruin the agency but would also severely damage the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) and the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities).

There was a federal victory for libraries. Following threats from the White House to eliminate the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) again, a settlement now ensures the continued operation of the agency. According to ALA (American Library Association), the settlement resolves litigation challenging the Trump Administration's attempts to dismantle IMLS through Executive Action. Under the settlement, the agency will continue awarding grants, conducting research, and operating programs that support libraries and museums across the country. Now, the focus is on getting a budget for the IMLS.

Network info. Nori setup regular phone/zoom meetings with the team at NOBLE to work on integrating to the new network. The library will close early on Wednesday 4/29 for an all-staff training with NOBLE. Individual trainings for cataloging will be scheduled in May. Nori met with and provided tours for the Director and Assistant Director of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library (Wakefield) on Wednesday 4/8 and

intends to visit Wakefield soon (along with other NOBLE libraries).

Technology. The library purchased software for all the public access computers called “Deep Freeze.” Now, whenever a public computer is shut down or re-started, all the previous documents, search history, and logins will be wiped. This protects patron privacy and is good for keeping computers safer from viruses. On Wednesday 4/15, Patrick from HiQ came to replace one of the staff computers with a newer computer. Both Raegan’s and Carolyn’s staff computers were replaced with computers that were purchased the previous year for the public. All public computers were already replaced with the SLBI grant awarded earlier.

Friends. The Friends met on Saturday 3/21 to stamp and label mailings to send to Nahant residents for membership. And membership checks have been coming in. The library received funding from the Friends to pay for the next Town-Wide Read book, *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. We displayed 15 copies of the book in April, ahead of the programs centered on the book in May. As of April 24, only two books are left. A Library Friends volunteer collected flyers about the programs to hang up around town.

Programming:

- Weekly Story Time
- Weekly Lego Club
- Weekly Italian classes (2 adult-beginner and advanced, and 1 for families)
- Monthly Mystery Book Club
- Bi-weekly Crafting Circle
- Winter Music Series –first Saturday of the month at 1:30pm
Feb 7 Gian Carlo (Latin Music) rescheduled to Feb 14 because of a snow storm
March 7 The Emanon Seven (Jazz band) – had over 700 views online!
April 4 Scott Ouellette (Classical guitar) –over 200 views online
- Mushroom Talk with Jonathan Kranz, a MA Audubon certified Field Naturalist and Vice President of the Boston Mycological Club, Thursday 3/19 at 5pm
- Sewing/Mending workshop Friday 4/3 1-4pm
- April School Vacation Programs
 - 4/21: Children’s Yoga
 - 4/22: Lego Club
 - 4/23: Story Time
 - 4/24: Stuffed Animal Sleepover drop-off
 - 4/25: Stuffed Animal Sleepover Viewing Party
- Amelia Earhart lecture, co-sponsored with Nahant COA and Nahant Historical Society Friday May 8 at 12:30pm
- 2026 Town-Wide Read. Books will be available to read in April. Programs will take place in May.
 - May 7 Screening of the PBS Film the Librarians
 - May 9 Book Swap
 - May 18 Virtual “Banning Books in America: Not a How To” with Author Samuel Cohen
 - May 28 Book Discussion

- Transition to Kindergarten Concert with CFCE (Coordinated Family Community Engagement) May 12 at 3:30pm
- Apollo Club of Boston annual benefit concert Sunday June 7 at 3pm
- America's 250th anniversary program in collaboration with the Swampscott Public Library June 17
- Virtual Celebrating America's 250th: "Boston, 1776" with author JD Dickey June 22 at 7pm
- Copper bookmark making workshop 9/3 at 5pm

New Business.

Policy - Service to Non-Certified Communities. Due to what is happening in Marblehead and the chance that their library could become de-certified, Nori presented the Trustees with a policy addressing how the Nahant Public Library would manage patrons from Marblehead, or any other community with a de-certified public library, should that come to pass. Trustees will review the policy and vote at the next meeting.

Adjourned: 5:50 pm