

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
April 16, 2019**

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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering, Tony Barletta – Town Administrator,
Timothy Zessin – Town Counsel

Convened: 6:37 PM

Chris Stevens motioned that the Trustees begin an executive session to discuss a matter of possible litigation. Approved by roll call vote.

Anne Spirn – Aye
Chris Stevens – Aye
Dan Munnelly – Aye

Return to open session at 7:40 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of March 26, 2019. Board President Chris Stevens moved to table the acceptance of the Minutes of March 26, 2019 until the next meeting.

Campaign/Capital Projects Discussion. The Trustees offered a few edits on the campaign handout created by Sharon. They will continue to look into options for collecting donations to Nahant Public Library, but agreed that the campaign handout should instruct donors to make checks out to Friends of Nahant Public Library and mail them to the Library.

Director's Report

Budget 2020. Debbie Waters has supplied a copy of the omnibus budget at your request, followed by the entire warrant being released to the department heads. This final version of the budget looks more equitable across the various departments. The Trustees plan to make a statement during town meeting regarding how the library has been operating with very little strain on town funds and but will need funds for deferred maintenance and upkeep.

State Aid. The second State Aid to Public Libraries check has been mailed, for a total of \$3,331.49 this fiscal year. These funds are used if there is a late bill after year end, but use is limited as much as possible in the event other funding doesn't come through. With an upcoming emphasis on the capital campaign, Friends money will mostly to go to the building, less to programs.

NPL 200th Anniversary, other kickoff events. Tickets to the John Davidson event sold so far: 39, with a few on hold. Dan Munnelly is making progress on food, drink, and entertainment for the June 1 gala.

Terrace repair. The Library received an additional \$2,000 to put toward the repair of the terrace from Essex National Heritage Commission, announced at their annual meeting at the Crane Estate on April 4.

Door repair. Unfortunately, the new door hardware has been problematic. Kronenberger & Sons is working with the manufacturer on a solution.

Memorial bench. Bill Coffey is donating a memorial bench and plaque in memory of his wife, Connie. He has sent a check to the Town of Nahant. With the work on the terrace coming soon, the bench can't be placed at the side entrance, as Bill prefers. So both parties agreed to place the bench near the Pisano sculpture along Nahant Road, with the idea that that placement will be revisited after the terrace is rebuilt.

Memory Café, Dementia Friendly Nahant. Almost all music CDs have now been purchased, Carolyn is cataloging all of those, and Sharon is finishing up on other purchases. An interim report was due to the MBLC on April 15. Curious Creatures visited the Memory Café with their menagerie on April 11 to much enjoyment.

Greg O'Brien, the author of *On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's*, was here Saturday, April 13 to talk about his experience as a person diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2009. On Sunday, Catherine Martin from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), Northeast Region, presented information on finding good health information on the internet, and on the National Institute of Health's All of Us research program. The NN/LM has funded two public computers, two e-readers, and a wifi hotspot this year, along with an additional \$7500 for the Dementia Friendly Nahant project.

Children's activities. Curious Creatures will return for a school vacation week event on April 17.

Friends Book Sale. The Friends of Nahant Public Library will hold its annual book sale on Saturday, April 27. Members of the Friends can get a "sneak peek" at 8 a.m., and the sale opens to the public at 9:00 until 4:00.

LSTA grant 2020. The final draft for the grant went out on April 8. Called, "Go Local, Nature in Nahant," the abstract for this two-year \$15,000 project reads:

Nahanters cherish both their natural surroundings and unique local history. Nahant Public Library holds one unique collection that combines these two passions: a pressed plant herbarium created by schoolteacher Florence "Flossie" Johnson and her students, c. 1897. A "most remarkable" section of the collection was entered into a Mass Horticultural Society show, and won a prize. Sadly, this collection has not been available to the public in years, due to its fragile nature. This project will make Miss Flossie and her lovely herbarium come alive, generating new stories and images about nature in Nahant, through

a walk brochure; a day to “Walk Nahant,” bringing back stories and photos to contribute to an exhibit of old and new specimens; a new botany book collection; a wild plant garden; a student day with Miss Flossie; and a two-year speaker series on Nahant flora for various ages and levels of interest. We hope to inspire adults and students in natural science and history, and strengthen the Library’s position as a reference resource.

Project partners would include:

1. John Benson, local naturalist
2. Angela Bonin, Vice Chairman, Nahant Garden Club
3. Diana Brandi, local naturalist, wildflower gardener and landscape designer
4. Vi Patek, President, Nahant S.W.I.M., Inc.
5. Linda Pivacek, local naturalist
6. Julie Tarmy, Executive Director, Nahant Historical Society
7. Geoffrey Trussell, Chair and Director, Northeastern University Marine Science Center
8. Valerie Perini, Outreach Program Coordinator, Northeastern University MSC
9. Amy Weidensaul, Sanctuary Director, Mass Audubon Society

The application included a 20+ page preservation survey, outlining what steps to take, and those being taken (i.e. building repairs), to better preserve the special collections. A final decision on the grant should be announced after it goes before the Board of Library Commissioners in July.

Summer Reading Program. The theme will be on outer space, “A Universe of Stories.” The Library will highlight the Apollo 11 moon landing and is purchasing some books that fit the theme. Peter Foukal will host an astronomy night, and the Museum of Science will bring an inflatable planetarium on August 21st.

New Business.

Development Committee. Anne, who will chair this committee, presented the names of potential members for this committee. She consulted with a few people and her interest was to get a range of well-connected Nahanters. Dan suggested that one project for the committee might be to work on a gofundme.com campaign.

Adjourned: 8:20 PM