

Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
July 21, 2020

Board Members Present: Chris Stevens, Anne Spirn, Daniel Munnely (all via videoconference)

Board Members Absent:

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes, Carolyn Ziering (via videoconference)

Convened: 6:37 PM

Acceptance of the Minutes of June 23, 2020. Board President Chris Stevens Motioned for acceptance of the Minutes of June 23, 2020. Motion seconded by Anne Spirn, and Approved unanimously.

Director's Report.

OCLC/Battelle Study. Sharon described the second phase of the OCLC REALM project, to test library materials for the coronavirus over time. The second phase included board books, glossy pages, and magazines. All materials had only trace amounts of virus by day 3, and no virus detected by day 4. In response, the staff decided to remove the toddler board books from open handling, though they may be checked out by request. The staff also modified their shelving practices. Most items received during the week will “rest” all week, to be shelved all at once on Monday, so they are ready for a Tuesday opening. Carolyn will monitor those popular items that may need to be processed sooner, keeping to the 24-hour rest time for books, CDs, and DVDs.

Building. Drawings for the steel beams have been submitted. It will probably be another 3 weeks until they are manufactured and work begins again. Workers came to take mortar samples to match for repointing the parapet walls, and the tile to be used on the decking has been approved.

Fundraising. Sharon proposes that the Board postpone trying to host an in-person fundraising event until next spring. The uncertainties of a resurgence of COVID-19 make it too difficult to attract ticket buyers at this time. The Board gave their consensus.

Library services. The Library has completed two weeks of limited opening to the public. Business has been steady but under capacity, with 32 visitors in week 1 and 29 in week 2. Occasionally, people need reminders to wear masks and physically distance where possible, but everyone wants to comply, which is very encouraging. Some of the furniture has been rearranged to encourage distancing.

Friends of the Library. A dozen people heard professional storyteller “Big Joe” Pagliuca live on July 8, and more will be able to link to his archived stories through the

Library website at <https://www.nahantlibrary.org/children>. The caricatures and Scholastic children's books have arrived and will be distributed at the end of the program. The Friends also provided checks for the Music Series performers, through a generous donor. Thank you, Friends!

Budget 2021. Expense plans approved by the Board for August and September were submitted last week. Purchasing for July is on track. The annual town meeting may be held either September 12 or 26.

MassCat. The fee for the use of the MassCat catalog has been recalculated, and it now substantially lower, down from \$4,400 to \$1,000. This is because it is calculated based on the size of the collection, and was originally calculated when the in-house collection was much larger. It was since reduced under Sheridan, and then the school collection was removed during Sharon's term. Our cataloged collection is currently under 30,000 items, and that is what the fee is based on. At the same time, our online, non-catalogued collection has soared both in numbers of volumes and circulations since 2014.

On Friday, MassCat opened up holds and borrowing within the consortium, from the following libraries that are currently open:

- Becket Athenaeum
- Gilbertville
- MLS - Professional Collection, Marlborough
- Montgomery, Grace Hall Library
- Pelham Free
- Royalston, Phinehas S. Newton Library
- Rutland Free

The ComCat system has not announced plans to reopen yet.

Copier. The Samsung copier, several months past the contract expiration, is having more and more problems. Sharon agreed to getting a new machine, with hopefully a little cost savings.

Other libraries in the Commonwealth are either still in curbside pickup mode only, or are planning to do limited opening this week or next.

RB Digital. RB Digital, the company that offers digital magazines (Zinio) and Universal Class database, had been bought by the New York-based investment firm, KKR, which recently bought the state's ebook platform, OverDrive. It is not known what this will mean for any of these platforms in the near or distant future, but because OverDrive did add almost the same list of magazines to its holdings that were offered through Zinio, Sharon has dropped that contract this year, at a savings of \$1,000. The contracts for Universal Class (\$750) and OverDrive (\$400) remain the same.

Summer Reading Program 2020. The Summer Reading Program continues with 42 registrants. The Library hired a professional storyteller to present through Zoom, and is

posting stories and activities from all over the Commonwealth thanks to the Mass Board of Library Commissioners' archive project.

Walk Nahant Project. Physical copies of the trail brochures have come in, and they look great! Project partner Nahant Historical Society has also offered a free copy of Dan deStefano's book about local plants, *Did You See That One, Henry?* Recent photos will be combined with images of the pressed plants for an exhibit next month. Slideshows of pressed plant specimens sorted by confirmed or probable habitat has been uploaded to the Library website, thanks to Carolyn, at <https://www.nahantlibrary.org/nature-in-nahant>

The herbarium images and the cataloging metadata have been sent to Boston Public Library for their review prior to uploading to Digital Commonwealth. The hanging system, also a product of this grant, is now supporting all the paintings in Delivery Hall, including the Nahant map, which has been moved from the computer room to get it out of the sunlight.

Music Series. Marilyn Goodrich led off this year's music series with a selection of calming guitar solos, which she pre-recorded. Her playlist was linked to on Facebook and on the Library's YouTube channel. Lisa Haley sang this past Thursday via Facebook Live, uploaded to our YouTube channel. There will be two more musicians, Gian Carlo Buscaglia and the Chris James Trio, to round out the month.

MVP. The Library partnered with the Town's Municipal Vulnerability grant program to help them spread the word about the program, which is primarily concerned this year with improving the dunes at Short Beach. Even though cut short by COVID-19, the Library had offered the brochure they made, in print and on social media, and bought a few titles to enhance a book exhibit on the environment, dune restoration, and resident floodplain concerns. A report on the Library's part of the grant was submitted to the MVP Committee to add to their grant report.

New Business.

Town Meeting. Trustees will circulate information to constituents about the Library's warrant article for town meeting.

Adjourned: 6:59 PM