

**Nahant Public Library
Board of Trustees
April 19, 2021**

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

Others Present: Sharon Hawkes; Carolyn Ziering; Mark Cullinan, Chair – Board of Selectmen

Convened: 6:41 PM

Director's Report.

Budget FY2022. Sharon began by comparing the Trustees' budget and the Administrator's budget and noted the discrepancies between the two. She also updated Mark Cullinan on the proposed collaboration with the Johnson School, informing him that the required procedure would not happen before Town Meeting if at all.

The Trustees emphasized that the library has been a team player for many years now and are repeatedly told to wait. They stated that the Library cannot keep going with the current number of staff and certainly cannot expand hours as many residents would like. Since the Library budget was not funded at the requested amount, Dan reminded Mark of that request from the last Town meeting and the Trustees intention to get full funding with the support of the residents.

Mark Cullinan stated his strong appreciation of the Library and how he worked to get the \$10,000 increase that is reflected in the recommended budget. He wanted to revisit the school collaboration and suggested that that be part of our strategy at Town Meeting. He reminded the Trustees that if they take this to Town Meeting, they will have to identify where the additional money would come from.

School/Library partnership. Sharon presented a brief PowerPoint to the School Committee. There were no follow-up questions. School Committee members expressed their interest in the collaboration, but they and Superintendent Pierantozzi expressed the need for this to be negotiated with the teacher's union, as it would give a union position to a non-union outside employee (though it would not remove a union employee, as she would continue to work for the school as she does this year, as a teacher's assistant). There has been no movement on this item since the presentation on March 23.

Building. Sharon submitted the grant application to the Mass Historical Commission on March 19. She is grateful to Richard Smith and Mary Ellen Schumann for their essential pieces of the application, as well as the town administrator, selectmen, Historical Society, and Sen Brendan Crighton and Rep Peter Capano for their letters of support and signatures where needed.

The final repairs to the alarm system installation were made, with an additional repair on April 14. All seems to be working now.

Campbell Construction was at the Library on April 7 to reseed the grass in the front lawn, following their work on the terrace. Their work is now complete. Sharon is also looking at the buildup of salt on the new tiles on the terrace and will work with Tom and Richard Smith to see what must be done now and in the future. They think it may be efflorescence leaching through from sodium in the grout.

The CPC and the town administrator have melded the Library's ask (\$161,388) into a broader ask for town hall, the cemetery, and the library (\$500,000). It falls under Article 21.E of the warrant.

State Aid. The second payment for State Aid was distributed to all certified public libraries. For Nahant, the total amount for this year is \$4,437.84.

Marion Bloch Book Collection. Marion Bloch collection is on display this month in Delivery Hall.

Nature in Nahant. The project budget was rewritten this year to reflect changes made due to COVID. The new budget was approved and an interim report on the project so far this year was sent on April 15. Major activities so far have included the Story Stroll in the playground and the herbarium exhibit, which ended in March. Additional activities will include the children's author at the Johnson School, the herbarium exhibit and documenting of trees at East Point on May 1, birdwatching on May 2, pressing plants with the Johnson School on May 21, and edible plant talks on May 21-22.

Children's Author. Author Jill Neimark's picture book presentation was moved to April 30. Her book is also currently installed as a Story Stroll in the Library Playground. All K-3 Johnson Elementary School students will get a copy of the book, thanks to the Nature in Nahant grant.

May 1-2, Walk Nahant. The Walk Nahant event is fusing with Jim Walsh's "Art, Nature, Nahant" event. On May 1, the Library will be at Memorial Park adjacent to Northeastern University with an exhibit on the herbarium from 9-5. Walk Nahant brochures will be handed out, and a mini-book sale will be offered. Sharon will encourage people to document the trees at Lodge Park for the town's new Trees Task Force, of which Sharon is a part. The Department of Public Works will keep a record of the trees and their condition to create a plan for repair and replacement of trees as needed.

On May 2nd, Linda Pivacek will conduct bird-watching tours at East Point, and Sharon will bring the new nature backpacks, complete with guidebooks, binoculars, and a journal.

"Wildman" Steve Brill. "Wildman" Steve Brill is rescheduled for May 21 and 22 to talk about wild, edible plants that grow in Nahant, with a lecture on Friday evening and a walking tour on Saturday morning. The talk will be on the front lawn of the library and the walk will be in person, distanced. Attendees on Friday are invited to bring lawn

chairs, and there will be markers to keep family groups distanced. This activity is funded by the Nature in Nahant project.

Little Free Library. The Little Free Library at Short Beach will return this year, on or about Memorial Day Weekend.

Town events. The Town of Nahant will once again cancel the Memorial Day parade due to the pandemic, but a scaled-down ceremony at the cemetery is in the works. The Fourth of July children's parade and races will be cancelled, so the Library will be handing out masks to all Summer Reading Program participants and asking that they wear them and send pictures for a virtual parade.

On July 15-18, American Legion Post 215 will sponsor The Wall That Heals here in Nahant. It is a ¾ scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with an Education Center.

Friends Fundraising. Sharon reported that donations to the Friends so far this year is \$1,150.

New Business.

Election Day. Daniel Munnelly plans to have a table out in front of the Library on election day (April 24). He will have information about all the services offered by the library and will be talking about the library's plan to pass on the budget at the Annual Town Meeting.

Adjourned: 7:37 PM