

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of September 15, 2022 meeting, via zoom

Present: Silvio Calabi, Susan Todd, Betsy Perry, Colin Page, Jennifer Gromada, Jeremy Pratt, Natalie Travia, Penny Abbott, Sara Serafini, Nikki Maounis, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Alison McKellar. **Absent:** Elinor Klivans, John Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Kristen Smith, Marti Wolfe.

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm.

Silvio Calabi

- There was no public comment
- The minutes of the June 17, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously with a show of hands.

Directors Report

Nikki Maounis

- Library hours are more normal
- Outdoor programs were well attended
- Had a successful summer reading program with over 100 families participating
- Over 2000 people attended Bay Chamber, Shakespeare, author & other programs
- Summer Harbor Arts was good, vendors and attendees were happy, weather was great
- Book sale was also a great success
- Camden on Canvas was our biggest fundraising event, raising almost \$66,000 ,& generated strong donations
- Audit is under way and is almost complete, report will be available in November
- Nominating committee is working on new members, they will have a report soon
- Atlantic ave is under construction for a new sewer line and road is closed, weekend's wedding may be impacted and refund may have to be given
- Julia Pierce is leaving, she was a strong member of the team
- Job has been posted on CPL website and Maine State Library website
- Hope is to interview in October and hire by November
- 1st Amendment audit occurred last week of August
- First Amendment audits are " largely American social movement that usually involves photographing or filming from a public space"
- Nikki and library staff had undergone training for such an event
- Key is to not engage the person filming
- Staff highlighted the diorama in the history center and Millay saying on the rotunda
- To date no issues from the audit
- A fundraising opportunity to sponsor a child reading books is being considered by Amy Hand for the holidays and next summer
- There was discussion about Fall Harbor arts, its merits for the monies raised, there will be further discussion

Finance/Treasurer

Susan Todd

- Fiscal year 21-22 was very good, allowing \$10,000 to be moved to the Facilities reserve fund and \$5000 to the Healthcare/PTO (paid time off) reserve fund.
- The last 2 months have a positive balance with just under \$203,000 raised, at 19% , just ahead of budget
- At 2 months in, things do change so need is still great to raise money and to control expenses
- After almost a year with Siemens upgrades, library expenses of electricity & propane are steady.

- Nikki has secured a contract for propane this winter at a good price.
- CoC brought in \$66,000.
- Summer Harbor Arts revenue of \$16,350 was only 71% of budget as a result of fewer vendors.
- Fall Harbor Arts also has fewer vendors and will most likely not meet budget projection of \$12,000.
- Income of \$14,575 for the book sale was very strong and is at 46% of \$32,000 budget
- A full audit is underway. Last audit was in 2017-18.
- Auditor will attend the November finance meeting to review & a report will be available for the board.
- CPL fund is down as a result of market volatility
- Donations may be affected by market volatility
- Allen agency will attend November finance meeting to review the library portfolio
- Question to continue with both Harbor Arts events due to work involved and reduced income
- Comment was made on expense to stay in Camden while participating in the event
- Silvio's question at the finance meeting of starting a facility reserve for the green roof was discussed
- Silvio made a motion to have a committee discuss with the town what to do with the roof and how to proceed. It was seconded by Jeremy. The committee will consist of Silvio, Jennifer, and Jeremy and possibly Dennis Mcguirk.

Parks

Dave Jackson

- The lawn in the Amphitheater is in great shape even after the Bay Chamber event
- Library will continue with preventative maintenance
- Last walking tour will be Friday ,September 16th.
- There are 5 weddings and a native plant sale remaining in the schedule
- May be necessary to refund deposit for wedding September 16th due to construction and limited parking

Facilities

Ken Gross

- No major building issues
- Repair work has been done in the restrooms, the back masonry stairs and some electrical boxes
- Finding people to do the repairs is an issue
- It was questioned whether using Hedstrom could be a problem with the affiliation to the select board. The library has used Hedstrom for several years and it should not be a problem

Development

Betsy Perry

- Development group met September 13.
- 56% of the board fundraising goal has been met
- Camden on Canvas was largest fundraiser to date, 40% over last years numbers
- 100 bricks are left to complete the brick garden
- "Constancy" was favored theme considering changes going on in the community
- List of donors will be circulated to board, members will be asked to sign letters for people they know

Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee

Susan Todd

- Susan Todd will be one of nine members of the Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee
- Town is seeking to “engage the community, stakeholders and grant funding agencies to provide a due diligence process to advance viable options for preserving, improving sustainability and recommending resiliency outcomes for the Megunticook River and its watershed”.
- Town has contracted with Forrest Bell CEO of Environmental Associates LLC to facilitate the process along with Sophie Romano of the Camden select board
- Asked by Sophie Romano to apply to be on the committee
- Asked Silvio and Nikki if they approved applying
- Applied for a spot on the nine member committee
- Members are Camden citizens, volunteers, with broad based backgrounds, a connection with the Megunticook river,who can work effectively in small groups and will have full attendance at meetings.
- Meetings are public but without any interruption from non-committee members and will be recorded

New Business

- There will be a November rotunda book sale
 - Board members were invited by Tony Grassi to a Megunticook river watershed presentation
 - Silvio, Jennifer, Natalie and Susan will attend the presentation
 - A handrail is scheduled to be installed on the stairs from the upper lawn to the corner of Atlantic ave
 - A review of the bylaws will be conducted by a committee of Silvio, Kristen, Jennifer and Natalie
- There was no further new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.

Next meeting: October 20, 2022 at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Todd, acting secretary