

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting of April 15, 2021 via Zoom

In Attendance: Penny Abbott, Silvio Calabi, John Fitzgerald, Susan Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Pat Jones,, Elinor Klivans, Nikki Maounis, Colin Page, Betsy Perry, Jeremy Pratt, Sarah Serafini, Kristen Smith, Marti Wolfe
Absent: Jenna Lookner, Susan Todd

Welcome: Pat Jones

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the Camden Public Library, Board of Trustees meeting on February 18, 2021; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

Director's Report: Nikki Maounis

Nikki gave an overview of the Town Budget Committee meeting held on March 25, 2021. There were many affirmations from Budget Committee members regarding the many services offered by the Library throughout the pandemic. One Budget Committee member made a surprise motion to increase the budget by \$40,000. It was unanimously approved. The next step will be a vote by the Select Board on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. If the Select Board passes the budget, including the \$40,000, it will go to the Town meeting in June 2021. If the budget passes there, including the \$40,000, we will adjust the salary line. FY 2021-2022 budget. Nikki thanked the CPL Board of Trustees for connection with the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee did appreciate the contacts.

Most unfortunately, one of the CPL staff members has two cases of Covid in their family. The staff member works from home; therefore, there has been no exposure to staff in the building. The actions that CPL staff have taken to remain safe have been effective. By late May or early June, all Library staff will be fully vaccinated.

The State Library Commission is updating Guidelines and recommending a 24-hour book quarantine. A shorter quarantine will allow for a quicker turnaround. Nikki and the staff have been considering opening more fully by implementing the following:

- Continue online and outdoor programming through the summer months. The Amphitheatre has been in demand for outdoor concerts and other events. For instance, Bay Chamber Concerts has booked a week of outdoor music.
- Open the first floor to 10 tags vs. five tags (one tag per family).
- Open Reading Room for some private study groups (2 or 3 people) for a few unstaffed hours. Silvio asked if we can limit the use of RR to fully vaccinated folks. Sara outlined a protocol for allowing safe use of the space and suggested reviewing CDC guidelines with those wanting to use the RR. Nikki shared that she does not think we need to open the RR, for there have been very few requests.
- Picker Room will continue to be for book quarantine.
- Continue curbside pick-up. However, book orders will be required the day before pick-up. This change will allow us to open earlier in the day.
- Public computer use will continue outdoors.

Nikki will put together a document regarding the staff's thoughts about opening up to share at our May meeting. The digitization of the Camden Herald is a \$20,000 project. CPL has applied for funding from the Maine Community Foundation and the Steven Tabitha King Foundation. Digitization will make the Camden Herald much more searchable.

Outreach during National Library week yielded \$5,000. We are planning mini-campaigns for Preservation Week, Children's Book Week, and an appeal for the parks.

After the recent rainstorms, the leaks in Nikki's office returned. More information on this in the Facilities Report.

Construction on Main Street will continue for another ten days.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: John Fitzgerald

John shared that at the last Finance Committee meeting, Nikki updated estimates for FY 2021-2022. If \$40,000 is approved, it will apply to the staff budget line. The current March finances show a loss, but the FY budget is still in the black. The budget reflects the strength of development income. Also, staff costs are down because we have two fewer full-time staff members at this time. The costs of addressing leaks, repairs to low-stonewall at the Amphitheatre, and HVAC fan failure will be about \$1,500 to \$2,000. The Library will need about \$22,000 in donations by the end of this fiscal year to finish in the black. Kristen asked if the Library will need to raise an additional \$40,000 to keep the Town's share of the budget less than 50%. John replied that there is no formula. We try to keep a 50:50 split with the Town. We do not have to raise a matching gift. Pat shared that she thanked John French for his motion to add \$40,000 to the Library budget.

Development Committee: Colin Page and Marti Wolfe

Marti began with an announcement that Edward Jones of Camden will be the lead sponsor of Camden on Canvas. At this point, we have raised \$7,350 in business sponsorship. There are several interested parties yet to reply. The Reception and Live Auction sale of the Plein-air works will be on Sunday, August 1, 2021, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Amphitheatre. We hope to sell 100 tickets online before the Plein-air weekend. We will serve light hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Without objection from the Board of Trustees, the reception will include wine. There was no objection. Colin added that Eric Jacobsen is joining the Plein-air painters, and Lydia Keyer is considering it. He reviewed the outline of the Plein-air weekend and the November gallery show and sale. The November show will be open for one week culminating in a Reception and Silent Auction. Colin clarified that proceeds from both auctions, live and silent, will be shared 50:50 between the artist and the Library. Colin shared his thoughts on the ticket price. Keeping the ticket price for the Reception/Auction high may help to ensure that high-end buyers attend. He suggested \$100.00 a ticket.

Facilities and Parks: Dave Jackson and Ken Gross

The number of weddings has stabilized. Dave continues to counsel wedding planners about the Covid guidelines and Library requirements. He also attends weddings to make sure the wedding party follows the rules. Bay Chamber Concerts will be renting the Amphitheatre for a week of outdoor music, and Camden Public Library will be a co-sponsor. The music event will be called Screen Door Concerts.

Ken shared facility repair plans, particularly the masonry work and leaks. The low-stonewall between the Library and Amphitheatre needs repointing. The weep holes in the stone wall are blocked. Dante 'will add another weep hole and drill out the existing weep holes. Inside the building, there is a blower motor to be replaced. Siemens will do whatever is in our contract with them. With other repairs, we can hire a company of our choosing or pay Siemens. Siemens will address the controls in the next two weeks and then lighting the week after. They will remove the old boiler and put in two propane furnaces in the middle of May. Then it will be time to remove the old oil tanks.

Harbor Park Special Committee:

Following Alison's presentation at the February (2021) Board of Trustees meeting, The Harbor Park Special Committee, Nikki, Dave Jackson, Ken Gross, and Silvio met to distill the trustees' concerns into a 'position paper' which Nikki submitted to the Select Board. Our seawall needs repair now, and it would be wasteful to rebuild it and then tear it down for the outflow of the river. Silvio suggests that we ask Gartley & Dorsky to give us their recommendations for interim repairs.

Several Trustees shared their experiences and observations related to the Resilience Planning and the Megunticook River Watershed: Community Conversations and Brainstorming sessions they attended. Alison McKellar, Selectman, and Hallie Arno, a student studying river restoration, presented the program. The Town will soon be meeting with abutters of the Montgomery Dam.

Comments Noted:

- The seawall may not be taken care of if left to the Town's timeline.
- Seawall may be a candidate for support from the Parks and Lands Conservation group.
- Towns that have been through this process have taken 10-15 years.
- Folks want to see concept sketches.
- Some want to preserve the dam, while others are excited the Town is looking at options for dam removal.
- The Town recognizes the Library as a top stakeholder in the dam project.

New Business:

Bay Chamber Concerts would like to use the Amphitheatre for a week-long event, Screen Door Concerts.

Bay Chamber wishes to serve wine at two evening concerts. The Library's policy is no alcohol on the grounds.

Wine has been offered at Library events only. How do we respond to this request?

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to make an exception for Bay Chamber Concerts 'two evening events in August 2021, and allow the serving of wine.

Meeting adjourned: 5:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Wolfe

Secretary