

## **Camden Public Library Board of Trustees**

Minutes of February 16, 2023, meeting conducted in a hybrid manner, in-person in the Picker Room and via Zoom

### **Attendance**

A quorum was in attendance.

Present: Penny Abbott, Silvio Calabi, John Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Jennifer Gromada, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Nikki Maounis, Colin Page, Betsy Perry, Sophie Romana, Elizabeth Senders, Kristen Smith, Susan Todd, Natalie Travia, Marti Wolfe

Absent: Elinor Klivans, Jeremy Pratt, Sarah Serafini

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm EST by Silvio Calabi.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Elizabeth (Liz) Senders was welcomed and introduced as the newest member of the Board of Trustees.
4. The minutes of the January 19, 2023, meeting were amended as follows:
  - Julia Sagaser's last name was added.
  - Meaghan's last name was corrected to Stiman.
  - Under the Director's Report, in the section about Siemans, due was changed to do. Susan Todd moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.
5. The Trustees discussed the Select Board's vote to not confirm Dennis McGuirk as a member of CPL's Board of Trustees, the letter that Silvio Calabi sent on behalf of the Trustees to the Select Board in response to their vote, and what, if any, further action would be taken.
  - John Fitzgerald made a motion to ask the Town Select Board to reconsider Dennis McGuirk as a Library Trustee and if they can find no substantive evidence why he should not serve, they honor our position to have him as a member of the CPL Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded but did not pass.
  - Sophie Romana explained Camden Select Board points of order. Reintroduction of an item after it has been voted down requires the support of two members of the Select Board and must include new information.
  - Marti Wolfe made a motion that the Executive Committee and other interested Trustees gather and suggest a path forward and present it to the rest of the Board for discussion. The motion was seconded and passed. Silvio appointed John Fitzgerald as chair. In addition to John and the Executive Committee (Silvio, Kristen, Susan, and Jennifer), Natalie and Betsy also indicated interest in joining the group.
  - Kristen Smith made a motion to table further discussion of the letter sent to the Select Board until the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.
6. In the Director's Report, Nikki Maounis presented a wrap-up of 2022 activities and achievements and offered a look forward to 2023. A copy of the report is attached. The following additional updates were provided:

- To fund improvements to the Reading Room which include adding a bathroom, CPL will apply for an American Rescue Plan Act grant. Sophie Romana offered to provide a letter of support from the Camden Select Board to accompany CPL's application.
  - Additional bricks will be installed in the Brick Garden in April or May, weather permitting.
  - Sophie Romana confirmed that, contrary to previous information, Harbor Park was included in FEMA's assessment of storm damage in Camden. No further information has been received.
  - The construction portion of the SIEMENS project is not yet complete. CPL was guaranteed a reduction in overall heating and lighting costs, and an analysis of those costs are supposed to happen annually. All the adaptation from the project needs to be done before calculations of the impact can be performed. CPL has been advised that the best course of action is to continue keeping track and that these records will be used in the future when the cost analysis is performed.
  - CPL's FY 2024 budget will be discussed at the Camden Select Board meeting in March. The Budget Committee has not met nor are all the members known at this time. When the committee members are known, then a Trustee will meet with each committee member to review the budget. The CPL Board of Trustees does not meet in March as all Trustees are expected to attend the Budget Committee meeting that month.
  - Trustees should review the list of Board committees distributed with this month's meeting announcement and let Nikki know if there are any they would like to join.
7. Susan Todd highlighted some items from the financial reports that were distributed with this month's meeting announcement. Although CPL experienced a loss for the prior month, expenses are being well-controlled and are running under budget overall. Program and regular income are slightly above budget, development was under last month but is on budget for the year, and book sales are doing great – right at budget. There are unrealized gains in the CPL Fund. We will have to work hard to meet the budget at the end of the year.
  8. Marti Wolfe and Colin Page gave an update on Camden on Canvas. Businesses are being contacted for sponsorships and this is going well. Sponsorships should cover catering and rentals. There are 22 artists participating this year, including 4-5 new people; their names are listed on the website.
  9. Kristen explained that most of the changes incorporated in the revised Bylaws that were distributed with this month's meeting announcement were updates to language, such as the use of gender-neutral terms and introduction of electronic meeting formats. All Trustees should read the revised Bylaws and send corrections or changes to Nikki before the April meeting so that the document can be discussed at that time.
  10. Susan Todd gave an update on the Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee's activities. A second newsletter was published. The next presentation is 4:30-5:30pm EST on February 21, 2023. Nate Gray, a sea-run fisheries expert at the Maine Department of Marine Resources will discuss River Ecology and the Impact Anadromous Fish Have on the Ecosystem. The MRCAC will be launching a website with all sorts of materials, including agendas, newsletters, and links to resources. Sophie Romana is the MRCAC moderator.
  11. Dave Jackson and Ken Gross provided supplementary information to the Camden Harbor Park and Amphitheatre Report distributed with this meeting's announcement. CPL is using

Eventective to promote the Amphitheatre as a wedding and event venue. The Library came through the recent weekend of record-breaking cold weather just fine, thanks to the new heating system. However, the building still suffers when there is a combination of frozen ground and a lot of rain, and as a result there was significant water inside again. The three granite pillars on Atlantic Avenue have fallen down, possibly snowplow related. They are designed to breakaway on contact. Nikki has contacted a contractor for repairs.

12. In new business, there was further discussion of the letter Silvio Calabi wrote and sent to the Camden Select Board on behalf of CPL's Board of Trustees, as well as protocols and procedures for involvement of the Board in future communications.

13. Marti Wolfe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:46pm EST. The motion was seconded and passed.

---Jennifer Gromada  
Secretary, Camden Library Board of Trustees