

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of January 18, 2024, meeting conducted via Zoom.

Attendance

A quorum was in attendance.

Present: Penny Abbott, Maria Baskin, Silvio Calabi, Erin Donovan, John Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Nikki Maounis, Colin Page, Betsy Perry, Jeremy Pratt, Elizabeth Senders, Kristen Smith, Susan Todd, Natalie Travia, Kendra Watkins, Marti Wolfe

Absent: Sarah Serafini

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm EST by Silvio Calabi.
2. Silvio Calabi welcomed three new Trustees: Marisa Baskin, Erin Donovan, and Kendra Watkins.
3. The minutes of the November 18, 2023, meeting were amended to correct the spelling of Siemens and subsequently approved.
4. There was no public comment.
5. John Fitzgerald of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of new officers: Kristen Smith, president; John Fitzgerald, vice president; Liz Senders, treasurer; and Jennifer Gromada, secretary. All nominees were elected.
6. Nikki Maounis gave the Director's report.
 - a. CPL's firewall failed on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday, CPL's tech team recommended a complete replacement of the firewall. The Library has some internet access but not enough bandwidth to offer it to the public or perform many tasks. The new firewall is supposed to arrive on Friday and Nikki hopes the Library will be back to normal operations over the weekend.
 - b. An updated meeting calendar was distributed.
 - c. An updated contact list was distributed.
 - d. A listing of committee assignments was distributed. Trustees should let Nikki and Kristen know if they have an interest in joining a committee.
 - e. Each Trustee must sign and return the Conflict of Interest policy.
 - f. CPL's meetings with the Camden Budget Committee have been scheduled. The Committee has been friendly so far and the Library has received a very good reception from members. The Library's budget will first be discussed in early March and then the Library's one-on-one is later in March 3rd Thursday.
 - g. Nikki presented the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. A motion was made to accept the budget as presented. It was seconded and passed.
7. Susan Todd gave the Finance Committee report.
 - a. The Finance Committee met last week with Abe Dugal and Sara Ruef-Lindquist from Allen Financial to review our investment portfolio, which is performing strongly.
 - b. The Finance Committee is going to look at CPL's Investment Policy because there is no guideline for using endowment funds.

8. Nikki Maounis and Ken Gross gave an update on the recent storm damage to Harbor Park.
 - a. Four of the top granite blocks from the top of the sea wall have been knocked down. David Eaton of Maine Stone and Landscape recommended that the affected section, which is leaning out toward the harbor, be repaired. The estimate is \$25,000.
 - b. Some minor repairs to the gravel where the benches are placed have already been made. There is additional erosion in that area that may need to be addressed. Four benches need to be reattached, two of these to the bluestone slabs.
 - c. Audra Caler has been asked to add CPL to the FEMA report that the Town of Camden is preparing. There is no guarantee that CPL will receive any funds and, if so, it could take a considerable amount of time.
 - d. A discussion of required repairs to the sea wall, possible preventative measures to prevent future damage, and long-term solutions ensued.
 - e. A motion was made for the Building Committee to meet with the Select Board to discuss the future of the sea wall possibly including a step-wall solution or leaving the sea wall to crumble. It was seconded and approved.
 - f. A motion was made to approve a fundraising campaign to pay for damage to the sea wall. It was seconded and approved.
 - g. A motion was made that as part of the fundraising campaign, the stones on the sea wall be restacked. It was seconded and approved.
9. Susan Todd provided an update on the Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee.
 - a. The next meeting of the MRCAC is January 24, 2024. The public is invited to make public comment at the end of each meeting.
 - b. The next event will be a River Restoration Roundtable on February 7, 2024 at 5:30pm at Camden-Rockport Middle School.
10. Nikki Maounis gave a Development report. CPL development efforts are doing well; slightly better than last year at this time. Please forward names of potential new Millay members to Nikki.
11. In new business, Kristen Smith noted that due to term limits and a resignation the Board of Trustees will fall below the lower limit of members this summer. She encouraged members to submit names of potential Trustees. Colin Page and Silvio Calabi's terms expire this month, and Sara Serafini has resigned effect this month.
12. In new business, Jeremy Pratt wondered if there is a way to enable CPL to receive renumeration when Library members buy books on Cloud Library. Nikki will investigate.
13. The Board went into an Executive session at 5:46pm.
14. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:06pm EST. The motion was seconded and approved.
15. The next Camden Public Library Board meeting is Feb 15, 2024, at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Gromada