

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

Minutes of May 16, 2024, meeting conducted in person and via Zoom.

### **Attendance**

A quorum was in attendance.

Present in person: Lynne O'Leary Annis, Marisa Baskin, John Fitzgerald, Jennifer Gromada, Ken Gross, Nikki Maounis, Alison McKellar, Betsy Perry, Kristen Smith, Elizabeth Senders, Susan Todd, Larry Ward,

Present on Zoom: Erin Donovan, Stephanie French, Ken Gardiner, Jake Gerritsen, Dave Jackson, Jeremy Pratt, Natalie Travia, Kendra Watkins

Absent: Marti Wolfe

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm EST by Kristen Smith.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of the April 18, 2024, meeting were amended to record Lynne O'Leary Annis and Ken Gross as in attendance. The minutes were approved as amended.
4. Nikki Maounis gave the Director's report. In addition to her written report, Nikki:
  - a. Gave a presentation on CPL's usage, who our users are, and a borrowing overview.
  - b. Reviewed the recent history of the relationship between the Library and the Town. This was last reviewed in 1998 and the results were included in Chapter 140 of the Town of Camden Code, adopted in June 1998. Nikki will forward Jack Sanford's documentation of the Library property that was drawn up in 1997.
  - c. Noted that Imagination Library has been a phenomenal success, with 375 children already enrolled.
5. Liz Senders gave the Treasurer's report. April was another strong month for fundraising, but with six weeks left in the fiscal year there is still \$20,000 left to raise, so the last month will be a big push. Overall, it's been an extraordinary year in terms of donations and an extraordinary year in terms of expenses. CPL had unexpected electrical work, computer expenses, and facilities costs that set the budget back. The roof expense, estimated at \$35,000 by Coastal Copper, is also looming. This work will start in late June and the money will have to come out of the building reserve.
6. Liz Senders reported that Camden on Canvas preparations are underway. At present, CPL is lining up business sponsors and creating publicity materials. There are some new artists participating this year. CPL is looking for new bidders this year, so please think of creative places to distribute promotional materials. Each Trustee will receive 2 invitations to CoC to give to friends. All Millay members will get invitations. The CoC team will be networking with local realtors to reach new homeowners who may be looking for artwork. Please send other ideas to Liz. Jennifer Gromada added that some of the artists will be painting at properties on the Garden Club's Annual Tour the day before CoC begins.
7. Jeremy Pratt gave the Special Harbor Park Committee report. Jeremy reported receiving positive feedback from Town Manager Audra Calder and Bina Skordas of FB Environmental

about the Library's new Statement on Harbor Park. Susan Todd noted that Jennifer Gromada will be asked to give the Harbor Park presentation to MRCAC. Jeremy is trying to find out when the Library Trustees will see designs; Bina indicated that there will be a presentation on June 5, but details were sketchy.

8. Susan Todd gave the MRCAC report. At the last MRCAC meeting, Viewshed – landscape architects hired to create Harbor Park designs – presented six cartoons depicting various scenarios: two with the dam, two with partial dam removal, and two with full dam removal, each with and without fish ladders. These can be seen on the zoom recording of the meeting. MRCAC members gave feedback and the drawings are to be refined. MRCAC is meeting again on May 20 to review updates. A robust discussion ensued.
9. John Fitzgerald gave the Nominating Committee report.
  - a. John presented Jennifer Gromada as a Centennial Fund Committee Trustee. A nomination was made, seconded, and passed.
  - b. John presented Patty Eddy as a Library Trustee. A nomination was made, seconded, and passed.
  - c. John presented Heather Shanklin as a Library Trustee. A nomination was made, seconded, and passed.
  - d. John has some other Trustee applicants for future consideration is still looking for more suggestions.
10. Nikki gave a Facility update. The roof repair work should start in June. The work on the third floor bathroom has started. Dave Jackson gave a Parks update. Dave noted that the Camden Parks and Recreation Department has been very helpful and is an important resource for the Library.
11. Kristen Smith proposed scheduling a Board retreat. After discussion, Tuesday, October 8, 2024 was selected. The retreat will be about 4 hours and take place in the afternoon.
12. Kristen Smith reopened the subject of moving date of the February and April Trustee meetings, which coincide with school holidays. A motion was made to move these meetings from the third Thursday to the fourth Thursday. The motion was seconded and failed.
13. In new business:
  - a. John Fitzgerald asked all Trustees to encourage people interesting in a position on the Board of Trustees to complete and submit the application on the Library web site.
14. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:18pm EST. The motion was seconded and approved.
15. The next Camden Public Library Board meeting is June 20, 2024, at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Gromada