

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

Minutes of November 21, 2024, meeting conducted in person and via Zoom.

### **Attendance**

A quorum was in attendance.

Present in person: Marisa Baskin, Erin Donovan, Patty Eddy, Ken Gardiner, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Jeremy Pratt, Elizabeth Senders, Heather Shanklin, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia, Larry Ward, Christina Young

Present on Zoom: John Fitzgerald, Kendra Watkins

Non-Board Members Present: Jessica Ives, Dave Jackson, Kristy Kilfoyle, Lynne O'Leary Annis, Julia Sagaser, Susan Todd

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm EST by Kristen Smith.
2. During the public comment period, Jessica Ives provided feedback on the MRCAC scenarios displayed in the Rotunda. She took issue with the lack of water in the Scenario A image while it is shown in Scenarios B and C. Jessica claims the Library-created materials contain several misstatements.
3. The minutes of the October 17, 2024, meeting were approved.
4. Kristen Smith introduced Julia Sagaser, CPL's Programs Director. Julia started her position in October 2022. Her day-to day tasks include all stages of program planning from conception through planning, execution, and post-program follow-up. At any one time, multiple projects are in different phases of development. She also manages all technology required for programs. A lot of Julia's time is spent conversing with people and cultivating relationships with individuals and other organizations. Publicity is a large part of her role, including the Library website and calendar, creating graphic designs, social media posting, distributing information, and writing press releases. She is responsible for CPL's social media, YouTube, adult clubs and organizations that meet at CPL. Julia produces the events newsletter, manages Picker Room and Amphitheater (except weddings) rentals, maintains partnerships with other organizations, and manages art exhibits. She also assists Jenni with development activities, works on large events (e.g. Winterfest and Native Plant Sale), and plans various Library Series (e.g. Jump Start January and History Month).
5. Kristy Kilfoyle presented the Director's report, adding the following:
  - a. Kristy Kilfoyle is preparing a Save America's Treasures grant application.
  - b. The historical engineer was here today to inspect the Library roof. The report will be complete in six weeks. This is the last step in this process of applying for FEMA funds. After the report is provided to FEMA, the budget group will issue a decision.
  - c. A weekend circulation assistant resigned. The position has been advertised and applications received; initial interviews are scheduled.
  - d. Two new library card designs have been finalized. One will have an image of Camden created by Chris Van Dusen, which was gifted to the library by the artist. The other is a painting of CPL by Colin Page. These will be unveiled in a few months when existing stock runs out.

- e. The annual Millay events will be restarting. Kristy Kilfoyle is working to get J. Courtney Sullivan, author of *Maine*, as the featured speaker.
  - f. While visiting CPL recently, Michael Komanecky, a former curator at the Farnsworth Art Museum, identified one of the paintings in the Reading Room as "the finest example of Leon Kroll's work" he's ever seen. An art expert will be retained to investigate and confirm the work's provenance, and a new appraisal will be obtained.
  - g. CPL has a quote of \$400,000 for repointing the Library building. Kristy Kilfoyle reported that Audra Caler indicated that this was in line with Camden's recent experience with the Opera House. Kristy noted that Camden owns the building; the town did not file an insurance claim for the last storms.
6. Liz Senders reviewed the October 2024 financial statements, adding the following:
    - a. CPL received an unsolicited \$25,000 donation in October.
    - b. Jenny Parmalee is finalizing the annual Millay appeal. The theme is "A Lifetime of Stories." The appeal packet will be sent to existing and prospective members.
    - c. Julia Sagaser is working on a Stock the Stacks initiative. The graphic image will be a stocking filled with books.
    - d. Jeremy Platt reported receiving no response to the demand letter sent to Coastal Copper asking for a partial refund of \$8,000 of the \$17,600 deposit. He outlined the options available. Discussion was tabled until New Business portion of the agenda.
  7. Kristy Kilfoyle reviewed the Facilities report, adding the following:
    - a. A few small actions are required to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor restroom. It will be a unisex restroom, and the downstairs facilities will be reopened as male and female restrooms.
    - b. Knowles completed repairs to the Gazebo granite steps.
    - c. Carpet samples are available for review.
    - d. Pen Bay Glass quoted \$8,000 to replace the windows with broken seals.
  8. Dave Jackson reviewed the Parks report, adding the following:
    - a. Dave Jackson acknowledged the Camden Parks and Recreation department for their assistance with mowing and cleaning up leaves throughout the Library grounds. The new director Jeff Nathan has been extraordinarily cooperative and responsive.
    - b. Wonderful success power washing the benches suggested that everyone take a look.
  9. John Fitzgerald reported for the Nominating Committee.
    - a. The slate of officers for 2025 was distributed: President, Kristin Smith; Vice President, Natalie Travia; Secretary, Jennifer Gromada; Treasurer, Elizabeth Senders. No additional nominations were received. Voting will take place at the January 2025 meeting.
    - b. The nominating committee is going to interview Jana Mohr Lone for a Trustee position
  10. Susan Todd provided an update on MRCAC activities. The Committee held two community meetings in October. They are working on new designs that will show a variety of water flows in each Scenario as well as a 75% design for Scenario C that will facilitate the change of components after the decision. Currently, Scenarios A and C have the most support. MRCAC's recommendation is due to the town on February 18. Going forward, MRCAC is working to determine the preferred Scenario and writing the warrant. Once the warrant is public (April), MRCAC will begin to address the rest of the river. Grants for removal are being pursued. If the decision is made to restore the dam the town will have to pay for it.

11. Marisa Baskin reported on the Harbor Park Special Committee activities.
  - a. Jennifer Gromada will update the CPL's response to the MRCAC Scenarios and circulate the document to the Trustees. There was consensus that it should be made public.
  - b. Marisa Baskin shared the proposed placement of the high water mark sign. The Committee is working on the sign design. It should be in place by spring.
  
12. Liz Senders provided an update on Camden on Canvas. As a reminder, a decision was made to hold the live en plein air painting and auction every other year. In the off years, beginning in 2025, the event will be conducted online. Throughout the bidding period, the artwork will be displayed in the Rotunda and the Reading Room. The pool of local artists will be expanded to encompass other media, such as photography and sculptural pieces. Participation will be by invitation and limited to about 30 pieces the first year. The 2025 event will launch at the end of July. The online bidding will conclude with an in-person reception in the Reading Room in early August. The event will be rebranded, tbd.
  
13. Larry Ward announced a book sale in the Book Shed on Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 10am – 4pm during the Christmas by the Sea weekend. The Rotunda sale is going well.
  
14. Old Business
  - a. Kristy Kilfoyle has completed and will circulate an updated photography policy that only references pictures taken in the Library or at CPL events.
  - b. Maine's Paid Family and Medical Leave law goes into effect on January 1, 2025. Kristy Kilfoyle proposed corresponding updates to the Personnel Policy. A motion to approve the updated Personnel Policy was made and passed.
  
15. New Business
  - a. Kristen Smith announced that John Fitzgerald has taken a teaching position which meets on Thursday afternoons. Consequently, he is resigning his position on the Board of Trustees early, effective January 2025. Today was his last Board meeting.
  - b. Kendra Watkins raised the issue of a disruptive person outside the Library. Kristy Kilfoyle stated that she has spoken to the police about trespassing someone and this should apply to Library grounds as well as the building. After discussion, Kristy will speak with staff about notifying her about disruptive behavior.
  - c. Discussion about the Coastal Copper refund demand letter was continued. A motion to pursue a remedy through Small Claims Court was made and approved.
  
16. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:53pm EST. The motion was approved.
  
17. The next Camden Public Library Board of Trustees meeting is January 16, 2025, at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Gromada