

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of September 21, 2023, meeting conducted in a hybrid manner, in-person in the Picker Room and via Zoom. (amended)

Attendance

A quorum was in attendance.

Present in person: Silvio Calabi, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Dave Jackson, Nikki Maounis, Jeremy Pratt, Elizabeth Senders, Susan Todd, Natalie Travia

On Zoom: Elinor Klivans, Kristen Smith, Sophie Romana, Marti Wolfe

Absent: Penny Abbott, John Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Ken Gross, Colin Page, Betsy Perry, Sarah Serafini

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm EST by Silvio Calabi.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Silvio Calabi introduced the Board's newest member, Jake Gerritsen.
4. The minutes of the June 15, 2023, meeting were amended to correct the spelling of Sarah Serafini's name, with apologies from the secretary. The minutes were accepted as amended.
5. Nikki Maounis presented the Director's Report.
 - Recalling the Library's mission to "Read, Connect, and Discover," Nikki tied these goals to summer activities, highlighting the Library's many events and programs in support of this mission. July and August were busy months, nearing pre-pandemic levels.
 - The brick garden, which started in the spring of 2019, concluded this summer. In total, 640-650 bricks were purchased netting the Library \$160,000.
 - Nikki previewed upcoming events for the rest of the year including Halloween activities, Christmas By-the-Sea, and the Remote Workers' Grant Project work on the 3rd floor.
6. Susan Todd highlighted items from the financial reports that were distributed with this month's meeting announcement. The Library met its financial goals for the last fiscal year which ended in June. At 17 % through the current year, we are a little behind our targets, but there is a plan for additional Development efforts. Program income is terrific and has almost met its annual budget. The Annual Review was completed by the CPAs in August; findings will be presented to the Finance Committee. There was discussion on the status of the Campaign for the Future and the Centennial Fund.
7. Nikki presented the facilities updates for Ken Gross. Work on the benches from prior storms was completed this week. Work is underway this week on moving seawall granite blocks back into place. The final brick installation for the brick garden will occur in late October. We are waiting on repointing of the lantern on top of the Rotunda. Carpet cleaning is scheduled for mid-October.
8. Dave Jackson provided supplementary information to the Camden Harbor Park and Amphitheatre Report distributed with this meeting's announcement. Tropical storm Lee had minimal impact on Library grounds. Dave noted that he and Amy have been doing Tours for 12 years (not 11 as stated in his report). Railings will be installed near some steps in various

locations on the property; Rockport Steel will do the work. The estimate for the railing on the Atlantic Avenue steps is \$4,500.

9. Susan Todd gave an update on the Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee. A dam tour with Dave St. Laurent had over 100 participants. Over the summer the Committee met with Save the Dam Falls and Restore Megunticook. The Committee took a tour of Lake Megunticook. A Community Conversation was held at Bishops Wood with two experts from NOAA. Megunticook's east and west dams were inspected in September. This information is included in the newsletters produced each month which are available to the public. A public survey on Committee communication and public areas of interest is underway. Grants from the IRA are available for various river-related projects including fish ladders; the town is considering submitting applications. In response to Sophie Romana's inquiry about the Library's involvement in reaching out to the wider community, Nikki offered to post a note and a link in the Library's newsletter.
10. Marti Wolfe gave a final report on Camden on Canvas, which was held on July 21-23, 2023. The event raised approximately \$54,000. The COC Team has reviewed the event's results and made plans for 2024. Liz Senders will assume responsibility for oversight of COC in 2024.
11. Nikki Maounis reported that the Fall Harbors Arts & Books is full for vendors with a waiting list. The event will be Saturday September 31 and Sunday October 1. Marti Wolfe reported that the Library will hold a three-day used book sale in conjunction with Harbor Arts & Books on Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 1. Additional volunteers are still needed, particularly for Friday 11am-1pm.
12. There were four items of new business.
 - Marti Wolfe proposed the Library refrain from distributing plastic bottles at Library events, noting that Camden on Canvas was a plastic-free event.
 - Marti Wolfe proposed the Library hold an event to thank the Library's many volunteers.
 - Marti Wolfe urged the Library to restart holding Millay Society events. Nikki clarified that Camden on Canvas has become the Millay Society event.
 - Sophie Romana gave an update on the Sieman's contract. The performance evaluation is complete and the Library has hit its targets. Sophie will get the full report from Audra and provide it to the Board.
13. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.
14. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:31pm EST. The motion was seconded and passed.
15. The next Camden Public Library Board meeting is October 19, 2023, at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Gromada