

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of February 15, 2024, meeting conducted via Zoom.

Attendance

Quorum was in attendance (10 Trustees)

Present: Penny Abbott, John Fitzgerald, Jake Gerritsen, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Nikki Maounis, Alison McKellar, Betsy Perry, Elizabeth Senders, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia, Kendra Watkins, Marti Wolfe

Absent: Jennifer Gromada, Maria Baskin, Erin Donovan, Jeremy Pratt, Susan Todd

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm EST by Kristen Smith, President.
2. No public comments.
3. The minutes of the January 18, 2024, meeting were reviewed.

Amendments:

- Maria Baskin to Marisa Baskin.
- Sarah Serafini decided not to begin a second term, she did not resign.
- Minutes with amendments approved unanimously.

4. Director's Report

Nikki's report highlighted each CPL staff member and the role they fill at CPL.

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report- Liz Senders

- January had some unusual expenses- Harbor Park storm damage, fire wall issue, and AED device payment.
- Harbor Park storm damage fundraising so far has reaped 8K from 41 donors.
- Budget numbers are on track for this fiscal year.
- Town Budget Committee Meeting-March 21st at 6:30 pm in the French Conference Room.
- Trustees will reach out to the Budget Committee members. Do you have any questions or need a clarification regarding the Library budget request?

Nominating Committee - John Fitzgerald

- Committee met February 5, 2024.
- Skill and interest matrix being developed by committee to help fill gaps.
- A Trustee with a background in engineering and landscaping is needed.
- CPL Board of Trustees unanimously approved Larry Ward as a Trustee and will advance his appointment to the Select board.
- Recently received an application from Patty Eddy.

Facility and Parks

-Building Committee- Nikki

- After several attempts, Jeremy has been unable to meet with a Select board member or Town manager regarding the seawall and Harbor Park needs.
- Alison McKellar, in attendance, offered to meet and talk about the issues, but she pointed out that the Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee may be the best resource at this time.
- Discussion ensued regarding fiscal responsibilities, Harbor Park, Library neutrality regarding the Montgomery Dam, engineering studies, and multiple grant opportunities for the town.
- Susan Todd, Library Board Trustee, and Sophie Romero, Select board member, are both on the Megunticook River Advisory Committee.
- It was suggested that the Building Committee meet with Matt Bernier. Then bring the designs and ideas to the Trustees.
- In 2021, Library made a statement of neutrality regarding Montgomery Dam. It is posted on website.

6. Steps at Back of Library - Dave Jackson, Ken Gross, and Nikki

- Nina Holland, patron, sent a note of concern regarding the safety of the uneven, narrow stone steps that lead from the back parking lot to the shed and amphitheater.
- Dave added this could be addressed with railing. He suggests leaving the back steps for next fiscal year.
- Ken added that this is a back alley-not meant to be a public way.
- Motion to put up something with a sign to discourage public use of the steps.
- Motion amended.
- Motion to take issue to the town for advice.

Discussion ensued

Motion failed

- John suggested the Building Committee take the issue to the town for advice. The Building Committee will discuss options for the area.
- We will do a no thruway sign.
- Kristen will follow up with the patron, Nina Holland.

7. Other Building News - Ken Gross

- Plumber will be here tomorrow to address a number of plumbing issues.
- February 25th Ken's reception 2:00 to 4:00.

8. Search Committee Report - John Fitzgerald

- Met with Laurie Bouchard, Human Resources, several times.
- Six inquiries expressing serious interest- two will be interviewed by HR via zoom.

- Search Committee using a rating system to determine who will be interviewed.
- Laurie believes we are still in the early days of the search with more applications on the way. Also, we are “right on track” with expenses.

9. New Business -

- Kristen Smith, President, shared the idea of an in person board retreat. With a new ED joining CPL, this event is most important.
- Natalie reminded board members that summer is a busy time for Trustees. We will have a four-day book sale right on the fourth of July weekend. HAB and CoC are also in July. We will need a lot of volunteers. Feel free to recruit friends or relatives to help.
- Reminder to sign conflict of interest and return to Nikki.

7. Executive Session - personnel matter

5:40 pm to 6:08 pm

In Closing:

Penny Abbott completed her second term today. This is her last meeting. Many thanks to Penny for her service.

Next Meeting date - April 18, 2024, at 4 pm. In addition, meeting with Town Budget Committee on March 21st at 6:30 pm in the French Conference Room, Camden Town Office.

Meeting Adjourned 6:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Wolfe

Trustee, Camden Public Library