

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of April 20, 2023 meeting, in person and via zoom

Present: Silvio Calabi, Susan Todd, Betsy Perry, Elinor Klivans, John Fitzgerald, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia, Nikki Maounis, Ken Gross.

On Zoom: Colin Page, Jeremy Pratt, Ken Gardiner, Marti Wolfe, Penny Abbott, Sophie Romano, Dave Jackson

Absent: Elizabeth Senders, Jennifer Gromada, Sara Serafini

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Silvio Calabi

Public Comment

Silvio Calabi

There was no public comment.

- A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February meeting.
- It was suggested that Jennifer Gromada's name as Secretary be added to the minutes.
- A motion was made to accept the minutes with the addition of the secretary's name after informing the secretary of the change.
- The minutes were approved unanimously with the addition by a show of hands.

Directors Report

Nikki Maounis

- Currently the development goal is roughly \$35,000 short of annual goal.
- Millay reminders have just been mailed and a batch will go out the end of May.
- Board has \$7500 left to meet board goal for new money raised.
- The importance of having board members sign letters of appeal was highlighted.
- National Library week is April 23-29, theme is "There's More to the Story".
- Each day during library week will have a special theme, final day will be Day of Honor.
- April is Maritime Month, a series of marine-themed programs are scheduled.
- Henry Herbst has left to work at a library in southern Maine.
- Nikki actively recruited for his replacement.
- There were 10 applicants, 6 preliminary interviews conducted.
- Matt LaJoie was hired from the field of applicants. He has academic library experience from Bowdoin College, with primarily reference based experience. He is expected to begin around Memorial Day.

Finance/Treasurer's Report

Susan Todd, treasurer

- Fiscal year is 75% complete, current YTD numbers are in the black but we are behind last year's numbers by \$29,162.
- The library had a loss of \$16,617 for the month of March. Numbers do fluctuate during the year.
- Nikki and staff have kept expenses down.
- Development monies raised in March was 66% less than those raised in March of 2022.
- Generally donation amounts have been down.
- Yearend forecast – goal is \$215,000.
- YTD numbers- \$5641 from Stock the Stacks, \$25,000 from Camden on Canvas, \$10,050 in April donations. Balance remaining to raise approximately \$41,673.
- Expectation is to end the year in the black.

- CPL fund continues to reflect market volatility but was positive for the month of March.
- Please encourage anyone with “Required Minimum Distributions” RMD’s from IRAs to consider donating to the library if they are able. A direction donation saves declaring the income and associated paperwork at tax time as the contribution goes directly to library with no additional tax filing required.
- Abe Dugal and Sarah Ruef-Lindquist from Allen Agency will be at the June finance meeting to review the library’s portfolio.

Camden on Canvas

Colin Page, Marti Wolfe

- Marti has been working on sponsorships and housing for the artists.
- To date there are 14 sponsors and there is housing for all the artists as needed.
- Reminders will be sent out for Millay members about complimentary tickets for COC.
- Schedule is all set.
- List of the artists participating is on the website.

Ad hoc Committee for Nominating Process

John Fitzgerald

- John reported that the committee unanimously decided to not resubmit Dennis McGuirk’s name to the Select board for consideration.
- Dennis has agreed to be a consultant to the library.
- It was stated that Dennis was a valuable asset to the library when he previously served on the board. The board is very fortunate that he has agreed to consult as necessary.

Nominating Committee

Elinor Klivans

- A revised document has been created outlining the roles and responsibilities of a library trustee and the vetting process for a candidate.
- An application form has been created for applicants interested in becoming a trustee. The form can be completed online.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the application form. There was no discussion.
- The motion to use the application form was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.
- The nominating committee will review qualifications of applicants and thoroughly vet them.
- Candidates presented to Camden select board are chosen by the Library board because of the qualities and skills a candidate can provide to the library board.
- Important for the Camden Select board to understand the riguer used to choose a new trustee.
- When a new trustee is approved by the Library board, someone from the nominating committee will attend the Camden Select board confirmation meeting to explain the vetting process and answer any questions about the candidate.
- There was discussion about having 1 – 2 honorary or student trustees without voting privileges.
- A potential trustee is currently being interviewed.

Bylaws

Kristen Smith

- The updated version of the Bylaws was presented.
- Updated version now includes the Mission along with the Name and Location.
- The bulk of the revisions were around meetings.

- Language was removed, tweaked, and clarified regarding annual meetings, notice of meetings, executive sessions, attendance, remote attendance, quorums, action by vote, action by writing, and conduct of meetings.
- Pronouns were changed to “they” from “he” and “she”.
- There was discussion around Section 3.3 “Two thirds majority of the trustees present “ must vote to approve a new trustee. It was decided that two thirds of **all** the trustees must vote to approve a new trustee. The word “present” will be eliminated from the sentence.
- A motion was made to eliminate the word “present” in the language for the policy to elect trustees. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was made to accept the revised Bylaws.
- The revised Bylaws were unanimously approved with the amendment proposed by a show of hands.
- A red lined copy of the revised Bylaws will be sent to the Camden Select Board for approval.

Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee (MRCAC)

Susan Todd

- Committee continues to meet the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The committee hosts a monthly speaker the 3rd Tuesday of the month 4:30 – 5:30 on topics being studied.
- March zoom meeting was given by Mike Burke from Interfluve – “Overview of River Technical Studies 2018-2021” which reviewed the Interfluve studies/results for the town of Camden.
- April’s zoom meeting was given by Ken Gross on the “History of the Megunticook River”.
- May’s zoom meeting will be given by Darren Ranco, PhD., from the Penobscot Indian nation. He is a professor at U Maine, chair of Native American Programs and coordinator of Native American Research.
- Committee produces a monthly newsletter usually highlighting the speaker/topic of the month.
- Ken Gross gave a short summary with pictures of his talk on the History of the Megunticook River to the board.

Facilities

Ken Gross

- HVAC is working.
- Granite posts have been repaired in front of library entrance.
- There have been no leaks with rain.
- Generally, things are in good shape.

Parks

Dave Jackson

- Earth Day cleanup will be Friday, April 21 from 11-1. Nine people have signed up.
- 60% of the year’s budget has been spent to date, adequate monies available to finish the year.
- Bench has a loose anchor bolt overlooking harbor and is scheduled to be repaired.
- Insurance company has reimbursed for 50% of resetting of seawall blocks.
- Library parking signs in upper parking lot need repair.
- Camden- Rockport Historical Society at the Conway House has the library’s wooden carving of the state seal sign originally designed for the Amphitheater. It is a large statue and the historical society would like to see the statue back at the library.
- A picture of the statue was sent to the trustees and a plan will be worked on to have it back on the library’s grounds.

New Business

- Silvio is talking with Dennis McGuirk about the future of the green roof.
- May 18 meeting will be led by Kristen Smith.
- The trustees complimented Nikki and the staff on an outstanding annual report which was recently mailed.

- There was no further new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:43.

Next meeting: May 18, 2023 4:00pm in person and via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Todd, acting secretary.