

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of February 17, 2022 meeting, via zoom

Present: Pat Jones, John Fitzgerald, Marti Wolfe, Betsy Perry, Colin Page, Ken Gardner, Jennifer Gromada, Kristen Smith, Penny Abbott, Susan Fitzgerald, Susan Todd, Natalie Travia, Nikki Maounis, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Marc Ratner. Absent: Elinor Klivans, Jeremy Pratt, Sara Serafini, Silvio Calabi

Meeting called to order at 4:02.

Pat Jones

Welcome

Nikki Maounis

Nikki introduced and welcomed two new “not quite” Board members, Jennifer Gromada and Natalie Travia.

Due to a scheduling conflict they are slated to be confirmed by the Select Board March 1, 2022.

-Jennifer Gromada moved to Camden from Princeton, NJ. Her background is in financial services, technology, space and defense. She has a Doctorate in English literature and wrote her dissertation on Mary Borden.

-Natalie Travia has lived in Camden since 2018. Her background is in pharmaceuticals. She was on the board of Wings for Success and has volunteered at various CPL events.

Public Comment

Pat Jones

There was no public comment

Minutes of the January meeting were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Directors Report

Nikki Maounis

-Nikki reported on the CPL Materials Selection policy

-There have been no serious book challenges at the library since Nikki became Director in 2008.

-Book challenges are prevalent nationwide

-Local challenges - Central York, RSU 40 Waldoboro, RSU 22 Hampden

-Most challenges are related to material that is:

1) too sexually explicit 2) contains offensive language 3) unsuitable or age inappropriate

-Nationally, bulk of challenges presented 50% by parents and 20% by patrons.

-Challenges occur 43% for public libraries, 38% schools, 15% school libraries and 2% academia.

-Process of dealing with a CPL challenge.

A CPL challenge is first handled by Nikki.

The material in question is read, along with reviews of the material.

A conversation to develop understanding is had with the challenger about the material.

-If challenge is pursued-

The matter is referred to the board Collections committee.

The challenge is asked to be put in writing to understand the specifics of the challenge.

The committee reviews Nikki's notes, also reads and researches the book and makes a recommendation.

The recommendation is voted on by the full Board of trustees.

Their decision is final.

-It was questioned if challenges should be only accepted from Camden residents and card holders.

-The current CPL policy is not specific on who can make a challenge.

-The policy will be reviewed, a recommendation made and updated as necessary.

- There was a 3rd case of COVID-19 at the library.
- As of today, February 17, 2022 there are no new infections.

Town Budget Meeting

Nikki Maounis

- Town Budget meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 10, at 6:30 pm via Zoom
- As in previous years, each of the budget committee members will be contacted by a board member.

Finance Committee

John Fitzgerald

- There is a strong positive balance of \$67,185 for the fiscal year to date.
- Expenses for January were greater than income by \$10,862.
- Fundraising income fell \$51,598 from the prior month.
- General Expense line increases of \$3335 were in the annual bill for Director's and Officer's Liability, computers, photocopier, Bookkeeping and Accounting lines.
- Increases in Building Maintenance, HVAC, and Fuel lines, a 74% increase in Electricity, and a quarterly bill for Security monitoring contributed to an increase of \$2516 in Building needs lines.
- Parks maintenance and Winterfest increased Harbor Park & Amphitheatre expenses \$2032.
- S&P lost about 6% in January and had a negative effect on the CPL fund financials.
- CPL fund equity slipped about 3.5% during the month.

Parks

Dave Jackson

- Approximately 30% of the maintenance budget remains.
- Browntail moth remediation and repairing the broken tree limb over the Fauns Garden will be added expenses this spring.
- Project Canopy grant may not qualify to cover the woolly adelgids in the hemlocks.
- Dave discussed the various kinds of treatments to use, soaps and inoculations vs sprays.
- Dave will be conservative in his choice until there is better information and research
- 17 weddings scheduled for this summer, 1st one in May.
- Possibility of 3 additional weddings.
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Facilities

Ken Gross

- First heating season, new propane burners and system are functioning well.
- Electricians scheduled to repair several circuits.
- New flag and hardware was purchased to help prevent flag from catching in the tree.
- Camden fire department assisted in freeing flag from the tree during big winds.

Camden on Canvas

Marti Wolfe, Colin Page

- Dates of COC July 29, 30 and 31.
- Live auction will be held in the Amphitheatre the afternoon of Sunday, July 31.
- 9 inns and 1 private guest house will house COC artists.
- 7 confirmed business sponsorships, 8 tentative sponsorships.
- 35-40 artists applied for plein air event, 20 were accepted.
- Artists- Fenner Ball, Daniel Corey, Marsha Donahue, Carole Douglas, Cooper Dragonette, Diane Dubreuil, Stephan Giannini, Roberta Goschke, Alison Hill, Jill Hoy, Ryan Kohler, Jonathan McPhillips, Nathaniel Meyer, Colin Page, Matthew Russ, Bjorn Rundquist, Janet Sutherland, George Van Hook, Michael Vermette and Peter Yesis
- Harbor Arts and Books scheduled for July 9-10, Book Sale July 8-10
- Fall Harbor Arts and Books scheduled for October 1-2, Book sale September 30 – October 2

Strategic Plan**Nikki Maounis**

The existing Strategic plan was written in 2015 and implemented in 2016.

A small committee met with Nikki February 3 to review.

Committee members were Betsy Perry, Kristen Smith, Silvio Calabi, and Susan Todd.

Nikki provided reading material from the Public Library Association on Strategic planning as a reference.

Options – write a new plan, refresh or table

Pros and cons were discussed with each option, the option to refresh was chosen.

The committee will reconvene in person, March 7 to review and update the existing plan line by line.

New Business

- None

Meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.

Next meeting: Town Budget meeting tentatively scheduled via Zoom March 10 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Todd, acting secretary