

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting of September 16, 2021, via Zoom

In Attendance: Penny Abbott, Susan Fitzgerald, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Pat Jones, Elinor Klivans, Nikki Maounis, Colin Page, Betsy Perry, Jeremy Pratt, Sarah Serafini(partial attendance), Kristen Smith, Susan Todd, and Marti Wolfe

Absent: Silvio Calabi, Bob Falciani, John Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Colin Page

Others Present: Audra Caler-Bell, Nancy Jenkins, Tom Johnson, Alison McKellar, Dennis McGuirk, Bruce Meyer, Susan Mustapich, Marc Ratner

Written Statements: Robin Harlow and Wyatt McConnell

Welcome: Pat Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of June 17, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Public Comments: Pat invited anyone from the public to speak on any business connected with the Camden Public Library. No speakers from the public via zoom; however, a letter from Wyatt McConnell was read to those in attendance. Both will be a part of the records of this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Harbor Park Special Committee: Audra Caler-Bell, Kristen Smith, Marti Wolfe
Kristen summarized the August 25th meeting with Town officials in Harbor Park. Trustees, Silvio Calabi, Pat Jones (part of meeting), Kristen Smith, and Marti Wolfe attended. Town officials Audra Cater-Bell, Alison McKellar and Matthew Siegal also attended the meeting.

This group met in Harbor Park to conduct an on-site meeting regarding potential alterations to Harbor Park in the event that citizens vote to remove Montgomery Dam. It was a very productive meeting.

Kristen shared the following points:

- Ideal time for the Montgomery Dam project and all work connected to it would be in 2024 due to the reconstruction of the Main Street bridge.
- The Town is focused on renderings and drawings of the option that best meets the Coastal Communities Grant, due at the end of November.
- Trustees and Town officials reviewed potential changes to Harbor Park in the event that the citizens of Camden vote to remove the dam. Trustees set conditions as to what can and cannot happen in Harbor Park. The following was suggested:
 - Preference for stepped sea wall design to meet sea level rise. Reuse granite already on-site. The ideal seawall will also be safe and accessible.
 - The lower walkway (water currently encroaches during extreme high tides) would be affected if Montgomery Dam is removed.
 - The wall by the dam and sluiceway could be retained; however, it would become the responsibility of the Camden Public Library to maintain. Currently, the vegetation growing on the wall should be removed.
- Town official expressed confidence that costs of dam removal and seawall work could be funded by grants. One Town official stated that if there are no changes to Montgomery Dam, Harbor Park's seawall will be the responsibility of the Library.

Audra shared that the discussion in the park lead to a rendering much like the one on the Town website, except for the retention of the masonry near the dam & sluiceway wall and a stepped seawall in the park. When the new rendering is complete, we will get together again. The detailed engineers drawing for the Coastal Communities Grant will only show the Montgomery Dam and the wall to which it connects. Audra explained that the Town will work with the Library in a partnership on the Harbor Park seawall. The Town Landing is also going to be addressed soon.

Discussion ensued:

- Kristen read Wyatt McConnell's letter
- Robin Harlow's comments (email) was mentioned and will be shared in an email to all in attendance shortly after the meeting ends.
- Clarification of difference between sea level rise and flood events was requested.
- Financing of seawall repairs- Audra repeated, the Town and Library will work together on design and funding of the rest of the seawall.
- Vote on Montgomery Dam may be in June 2022, but this is a stretch for there is much work to be done before the Town has done its due diligence. Time is needed to work all of these details out.
- Interfluve will draw a rendering of the saved sluiceway wall and stepped seawall in the dam area, then Town officials and Trustees will meet again.
- Marc described swift water and its dangers to a town. Enormous rainfall events are a result of Climate Change, large, slow moving storms. How much water do the dams hold back? Will flood insurance rise dramatically? Marc stated that his focus is on how to best protect the Town and its citizens.

Executive Director's Report: Nikki Maounis

Nikki reviewed that statistics from August 2021. She highlighted visitor traffic, 19,005 last month. Evening hours have been expanded to 7 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We are now open 6 days a week, 51 hours per week. Mask wearing is required throughout the building. Curbside orders have decreased to 30 to 50 orders per day. Public use of computers remains strong. Library is hosting its first Picker Room art show in September. In October, a photo exhibit for Olmstead 200 program will be on display. For Fall and Winter, we are close to fully staffed. We will not bring any more new staff now. Programming will continue outdoors and online. Because e-books and e-videos have become wildly popular, we are shifting some monies to these resources. Technology training for staff will be provided this fall by our new employee Henry Herbst. Lastly, King Foundation grant provided part of funding for digitizing the Camden Herald. Access will be available through our website.

Financial Update: Nikki Maounis

June financials showed a small surplus. Strong donations in July and August. Fall Harbor Arts and Books has been cancelled due to the rise in Covid cases and highly transmissible Delta variant. This decision was made after consulting with the President of the Board of Trustees and the Trustee who manages the books sale. Susan Fitzgerald, book sale manager, added that in order to keep volunteers safe, the tent flaps must remain open. This requires perfect weather.

Jeremy and Kristen suggested that financial decisions such as cancelling HAB should be a whole Board decision because of fiduciary responsibilities.

Facilities and Parks: Ken Gross and Dave Jackson

Siemens team has finished their work. A few minor things for Siemens to follow-up on including more training of staff on the new HVAC controls. All carpets have been cleaned. We have had a lot of rain and very few water issues on the Atlantic Ave. side of the building. New weep holes seem to be helping. New entry carpeting will be installed at both entrances (Main St. and Atlantic Ave.). The fogged, double pain windows have been replaced. Lastly, capstones in the seawall have been pushed back by Farley. Dave shared the Bay Chamber Concerts held a successful five-day event in the Amphitheatre.

Development Committee: Betsy Perry

The annual fundraising goal is \$185,000. In July and August, the first two months of the fiscal year, \$38,000 was raised. The Millay Society brought in twice that of last year. Trustees have brought in 25% of the \$25,000 goal. A list of Annual Appeal themes was shared. Colin and Nikki have been meeting to discuss the November gallery exhibit, November 6-13, 2021, at Page Gallery. The proceeds will go to annual fundraising. A targeted mailing is planned. Trustees are encouraged to send suggested recipients' names and addresses to Jenni by October 15, 2021.

New Business: Pat Jones

CPL Board of Trustees meeting day and time discussed. It was decided to leave the time as 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm.

Betsy Perry will chair the October 2021 meeting.

March Ratner took a moment to share his appreciation of the Library programs. He also told the Board how pleased he is that the Siemens project has worked out. He expressed his enjoyment of the Brick Garden and Historical photos that are presented by the History Center.

Meeting Adjourned 5:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Wolfe

Secretary, Camden Public Library Board of Trustees