

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the Meeting of October 20, 2021, via Zoom

In Attendance:

Penny Abbott, Silvio Calabi, John Fitzgerald, Susan Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Elinor Klivans, Nikki Maounis, Colin Page, Betsy Perry, Jeremy Pratt, Marc Ratner, Sarah Serafini, Kristen Smith, Susan Todd, and Marti Wolfe

Absent: Pat Jones

Betsy Perry, Vice President opened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Minutes: Correction made to the September minutes regarding the reading of an email. The email was not read, but sent to Trustees following the meeting. Minutes approved unanimously as amended.

Director's Report: Nikki Maounis

Due to colder weather on the way, requests have been made by several groups to use indoor Library space for meetings. Nikki proposed the use of the Picker Room and Reading Rooms. After some discussion, a plan was outlined for each space.

- Picker Room: groups of 8 to 12, masks required at all times, space chairs to encourage social distancing, only two groups in a day to allow the room to air out, cleaning supplies will be supplied, time limit of 60 to 90 minutes
- Reading Room (RR): groups of 15 to 20, use of RR will be limited to groups with whom we have a history, limit the use RR to several times a month and perhaps on one particular day of the week, masks required, cleaning supplies will be made available
- AARP Tax program will take place from February through April 15th, once a week. Last year, 4 or 5 volunteers worked in Reading Room while clients waited in their cars.

Nikki outlined the Page Gallery art exhibit and silent auction to benefit the Library. The exhibit will open on Saturday, November 6th, and run for one week. On Saturday, November 13th, outdoor refreshments will be served and final bidding indoors will commence until 5:00 pm, masks required. Online bidding will be available as well as call-in bids. Colin commented on the promotional activities. Several Trustees noted the excellent website with images of the art pieces to be auctioned. 50% proceeds will benefit the Library. Nikki requested that Trustees attend the Page Gallery event sometime on Saturday, November 13, between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report: John Fitzgerald

September monthly financials show a loss; however, the financials for the first quarter are in the black. John and Nikki explained the loss in the programming income line. This is due to the return of registration fees to vendors of the Fall Harbor Arts and Book Festival. Total income for September was down and expenses were up. John reassured the Board that overall, the finances of the Library are in good shape and we are approaching the holiday season during which we typically see a spike in donations.

Harbor Park Special Committee Update: Nikki asked Trustees for their reactions to the community workshop held in Harbor Park on October 14th, 2021, regarding the Montgomery Dam. Several Trustees shared their reactions.

- Well attended (over 100 people)
- Lacked the structure needed to disseminate factual information

- Format and layout was confusing for attendees
- Cameraman interfered with opportunities to ask questions
- Masks and social distancing were not observed

Marc Ratner, a Select Board member, suggested a future community meeting in the Opera House with a structured panel discussion. In this way, questions may be asked by residents and factual answers can be heard by all in attendance. The Town has new improved equipment for streaming this event. Marc continued to share thoughts regarding flooding and public safety. Audra Caler-Bell, Town Manager, sent a new sketch of the Montgomery Dam and abutting Harbor Park. Marc reminded the group that the final decision on the Montgomery Dam is with the citizens of Camden.

Facility and Parks: Ken Gross and Dave Jackson

Parks- Dave shared a need for some stonework in the Amphitheatre. Christmas by the Sea will be held, but no concert in the Library. A parade is planned as well as the tree lighting.

Facility-Nikki reported some water in her office after an overwhelming rain about a month ago. Seems to depend on the quantity of rain and wind direction. Weep holes may have filled with debris.

Ken told the group that the Siemens 'work is complete, but additional training with the interface is forthcoming. He explained that the new heating system uses the outdoor temperature to anticipate the need for HAC indoors.

New Business:

1. CPL Minutes are posted on website.
2. How does the public reach out to Library Trustees? As a result of the discussion, Nikki will create and monitor a new email address, trustees@librarycamden.org, and forward all correspondence received at the new address to the entire board.

Board Meeting Transitioned to Executive Session at 5:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Marti Wolfe

Secretary, Camden Public Library Board of Trustees