

AMAGANSETT FREE LIBRARY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Approved Draft of Minutes of December 18, 2020

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President), Rachel Gruzen (Treasurer), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Meredith Cairns, Brock Lownes, Lynne Weinlandt, Lauren Nichols (Director). Also present, for part of the meeting: Irene Silverman. The meeting was videoconferenced and was called to order by President Marc Donnenfeld at 9:05 am.

I. Approval of Agenda. Approved without objection.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 27, 2020, Regular Meeting. Approved without objection.

III. Executive Session. There was an Executive Session from 9:10 to 9:25, in which it was unanimously agreed that the library is interested in going forward and exploring the possibilities of forming a "partnership" or entity with the Amagansett Historical Association and/or the Amagansett Village Improvement Society so that the AHA will continue.

IV. Financial Report. Treasurer Rachel Gruzen reported that our director, Lauren Nichols, "has done an amazing job of keeping us on budget." We are now 88% through our 2020 budget and by the end of the month, should be 99% through. Because interest rates were down, our income was a little lower than projected (though people have been generous), and our expenses (for cleaning, office supplies, etc.) were higher on account of COVID, but we have not had to dip into our emergency funds. Lauren noted that "if we continue to do what we're doing, we'll be fine in the upcoming year."

V. President's Report. President Marc Donnenfeld wished the library's trustees and staff happy holidays and thanked them for all their hard work during this year.

VI. Director's Report. See attached. In addition, Director Lauren Nichols reported that the frozen wet snow that we got within the past twenty-four hours has caused a leak in the flat area of the library's roof and that she is having the roof looked at this afternoon.

VII. Secretary's Report. Secretary Shari Thompson had nothing special to report.

VIII. Trustee Reports. None of the trustees had anything special to report.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Friends. Lynne Weinlandt, Meredith Cairns, and Shari Thompson reported that they and Lauren Nichols met with Chini Alarco, of Whitmore's, and her assistant to plan the next phase of our re-landscaping project, to be done, we hope, this spring. Fundraising bricks will be incorporated into the design, and a fundraising letter, which Meredith will write, will be sent out. We will have a webinar, in January, with Bricks R Us, the company that the Animal Rescue Fund (ARF) has used with great success. They will take us through the brick-ordering process, step by step, and answer any questions we might have.

B. Architectural Committee. Calandra Sheen reported that our window seats have been redone, with new upholstery, cushions, and throw pillows, and we all agreed that they enliven the corners of our first and second floors, besides being supremely comfortable. The board thanked Calandra and her husband, Francisco Poblete, for selecting the perfect fabrics and for their wonderful workmanship.

C. Amagansett Historical Association Outreach. See item III, Executive Session.

X. Old Business

A. Library Service Winter 2020 and beyond. Director Lauren Nichols reported that the library continues to offer online, but not in-person, programs ---and noted that a new participant in our Mysteries of the World Book Group joined after reading about it in *Newsday*!

B. Annual Appeal. Lauren noted that whereas last year our appeal went out to library cardholders, this year it was sent to all Amagansett post-office boxholders and that we had a very good response, with 81 donors contributing a total of \$13,076, to date.

XI. New Business

A. Motion to approve the Microcluster Policy. Approved without objection.

B. Holiday gifts to library staff. It was proposed, and agreed, that the library staff each receive, as a holiday present from the board, a \$25 gift certificate to Amber Waves Farm, in addition to their early salary increases.

XII. Approval of Regular Bills for December. Approved without objection.

XIII. Approval of the Personnel Report. Approved without objection.

XIV. Correspondence. None.

XV. Period for Public Expression. None.

XVI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.

Next Meeting Date: January 29, 2021, at 9:00 am.