

AMAGANSETT FREE LIBRARY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Approved Minutes of February 26, 2021

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Meredith Cairns, Brock Lownes, Lauren Nichols (Director). Rachel Gruzen (Treasurer) joined the meeting briefly. Also present: Dan Mongan, Sadie Stephenson. The meeting was videoconferenced and was called to order by President Marc Donnenfeld at 9:07 am.

I. Approval of Agenda. Approved without objection.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2021 Regular Meeting. Approved without objection.

III. Executive Session (as necessary). There was no need for an Executive Session.

IV. Financial Report. Director Lauren Nichols reported that we have spent 11% of our budget for this year and that our budget for 2022 will be on the agenda at next month's board meeting.

V. President's Report. Several of us and our director attended a trustee training workshop given online, last week, by Kevin Verbesey, director of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System. President Marc Donnenfeld noted that he was impressed by Kevin's underscoring the need for libraries to look at avenues for increasing services to, and engaging, their communities. This is something that we have been doing, and Marc said that as the pandemic winds down, he sees us continuing to move forward and do even more. All of us found the workshop to be helpful--- Calandra Sheen singled out, in particular, Kevin's list of library trustees' responsibilities---and it was agreed, in view of Kevin's checklist for library directors, that we are extremely fortunate to have Lauren Nichols as our director.

VI. Director's Report. Director Lauren Nichols reported that the leak on our roof has been repaired and that we have a six-month warranty on the work.

Lauren reported further that the election for library trustees will be next month, from March 1st through March 20th. There are four candidates for four places on the board: Dan Mongan, Calandra Sheen, Sadie Stephenson, and Shari Thompson (the deadline for submitting bios was February 25th). Ballots can be cast at the library or by mail or email.

Lauren noted that while book circulation has decreased 39% countywide and 46% nationally in libraries since the pandemic hit, we have had a remarkable 16.4% increase in our physical book circulation (22,136 items, up from a total of 19,019 for 2019). Also we have had 142% increase in e-book downloads.

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

VIII. Trustee Reports. None.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Friends. Meredith Cairns, Shari Thompson and Lauren Nichols reported that our fundraising brick campaign, this past month, has been very successful. To date, 31 bricks have been sold, and two generous contributions, from Lynne and Jeff Weinlandt and from the Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation, are covering the cost of our Friends garden project. The flowerbeds will be lined with a double row of bricks, and while we do not yet have the design for phase two of the garden from Charlie & Sons. we expect that the plan will allow for several hundred bricks. Another e-blast, in time for April 1st, will be sent out.

B. Amagansett Historical Association Outreach. Marc Donnenfeld reported that our library staff is working to coordinate programs and partnerships with the Amagansett Historical Association.

X. Old Business.

XI. New Business.

A. Motion to approve the Public Health Plan and Emergency Procedure Policy. Director Lauren Nichols noted that the policy applies to infectious-disease outbreaks in general and not explicitly COVID. Approved without objection.

B. Motion to approve the 2020 New York State Annual Report. Approved without objection.

C. Trustee election. See Director's Report, item VI, above.

XII. Approval of Regular bills for January. Approved without objection.

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

XIV. Correspondence. None.

XV. Period for Public Expression. Dan Mongan said that he was "impressed but not surprised by how well our library is doing."

XVI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, March 26, 2021, at 9:00 am.