

AMAGANSETT FREE LIBRARY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Approved Minutes of January 28, 2022

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President, videoconferenced), Dan Mongan (Treasurer), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Meredith Cairns, Sadie Stephenson, Lynne Weinlandt (videoconferenced), Arielle Hessler (Director). The meeting took place in the library's Community Room 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 December 17, 2021. Approved without objection.

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

IV. Financial Report. Treasurer Dan Mongan noted that with our 2022 preliminary budget coming up for discussion at next month's library board meeting, and for approval at our March meeting, "this is a good time to come up with ideas" for library programs and projects.

V. President's Report. President Marc Donnenfeld thanked Director Arielle Hessler and the library staff for all of their work "in a trying time."

VI. Director's Report. Director Arielle Hessler reviewed her Director's Report (see attached). She noted, in particular, that some of the library's computers and printers need to be replaced and a technology coordinator subcontractor will need to be brought in, and that a blog page will be added to the library's website, "to allow us to spread helpful news and updates to patrons outside of emails and flyers." Arielle noted also that Adult Fiction is being weeded, to make room to add to the collection, and that the Spanish collection has been moved onto newly freed-up shelves and will be added to.

Arielle reported that two significant donations have been made to the library's Children's Department: William Sherman, a trustee of the Murray G. and Beatrice H. Sherman Charitable Foundation, has given \$8,000, to be spent in 2022 on "books and computer equipment," and Dmitri Potishko, through the Goldman Sachs Gives Annual Giving Fund, has gifted \$5,014.92 to "support early childhood literacy by hiring an education specialist to establish an early childhood literacy workshop." Both gifts are deeply appreciated, and both donors have been thanked. Arielle reported further that this year's annual appeal has been very successful, bringing in, to date, \$40,575.92 from 84 contributors.

Arielle noted that the library will start a seed library in late February or early March. Some seeds have been donated by the Hudson Valley Seed Company and by Seed Savers (the rest have been purchased from Hudson Valley) and will be parceled into small envelopes and given out. The entire community will be welcome to participate; the intention is "to educate about gardening and growing our own food," and ideas for implementing the project were discussed.

This year, one position on the library's board will be open for election; Meredith Cairns's first term will expire (she can run again). Arielle proposed that with COVID continuing, absentee ballots be allowed, as they were in previous years. Ballots can be requested by phone or email or at the library and will be mailed or made available at the library to eligible voters (Amagansett residents). Ballots should be postmarked or filled out in-person by March 19th, votes will be counted on March 24th, and the results will be approved by the board at the Annual Meeting on Friday, March 25th.

Local photographer Michael Heller took several photographs of the library, last month, in freshly fallen snow, and one of them appeared on the front page of the January 13th issue of the *East Hampton Press*. These are photographs that the library will always have, and the board expressed appreciation to Michael Heller for his beyond-beautiful work.

VII. Secretary's Report. Secretary Shari Thompson, who serves on the board of the Amagansett Village Improvement Society, noted that this year AVIS is celebrating their 100th anniversary (actually, their 101st, since their celebration, last summer, had to be postponed). They are planning some events with which they would like to partner with the library, and the trustees responded with interest and enthusiasm.

VIII. Trustee Reports. None.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Friends. it was agreed that Director Arielle Hessler will consult with the library staff, and especially with our children's librarian, Evan Harris, about which pieces of additional furniture the Friends garden should have, taking into account storage space. Meredith Cairns, Lynne Weinlandt, and Shari Thompson will then meet with Arielle and order the furniture in time for spring delivery.

Three new engraved bricks have been received and will be installed this spring, and a brick-fundraising letter will be sent out in mid-February, in time for Valentine's Day ("show your love"), as was last year's letter.

B. Gala . Dan Mongan reported that the Gala Committee is about to have its first meeting.

X. Old Business

COVID protocols. It was proposed that the library's mask mandate be reviewed every month and changed, if necessary, by the library's administration. Approved without objection.

XI. New Business

A. Motion to approve the audit services of Greg Ferraris, CPA. Approved without objection.

B. Motion to approve the corrected 2022 operating budget for the library's website. (See attached.) Approved without objection.

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

XIV. Correspondence. With sadness, the board acknowledged a letter (see attached) from the library's archivist, Jacqueline Marks, saying that she is retiring as of April 9th. Director Arielle Hessler spoke for all of the trustees when she said that Jackie "has been an inspiration" and that "the library treasures the relationships she's built in the local community." Arielle proposed that the position be pivoted to head-of-reference librarian---more help is needed at the reference desk---and that the new staff member be hired before Jackie leaves, so that Jackie will have time in which to train him/her. The new person will, ideally, be experienced, and will have an interest in history and will develop archival skills.

XV. Period for Public Expression. No one from the public was present.

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

Next Meeting Date: Friday, February 25, 2022, at 9:00 sm.