

AMAGANSETT FREE LIBRARY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Approved Minutes of January 27, 2023

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President), Dan Mongan (Treasurer), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Sadie Stephenson, Arielle Hessler (Director). The meeting took place in the library's Community Room and was called to order by President Marc Donnenfeld at 9:10 am. A public meeting on the Policy for Use of Videoconferencing at Public Meetings had been scheduled for 9:00 am, preceding this meeting, also in the Community Room, but was not held because no one from the public was present.

I. Approval of Agenda. Approved by unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2022. Approved by unanimous consent.

III. Financial Report. Treasurer Dan Mongan said that he "had nothing to bring to the attention of the board" and that we will have solid figures at our March board meeting. The library's accountants will attend and will review our audit for 2022 and our 2023 budget.

IV. President's Report. Marc Donnenfeld thanked the library's staff for all of their work over the holiday season. He reported that Lynne Weinlandt has sent a letter of resignation to the board, and he and the trustees thanked Lynne for her years of service and dedication to our library.

V. Director's Report. Arielle Hessler reported that some of the library's locks were stiff and broken and have been re-keyed and repaired; that the boiler ignitor and pump that was leaking have been fixed; and that the library's front lamppost, which had been out, has been converted to LED and is lighting up again. Arielle reported further that annual staff performance reviews are being conducted and there will be a staff meeting next week, on January 31st. Until a new Children's Librarian is hired, she and Kimberly Parry, our Head of Adult and Teen Services, are scheduling and running children's programs. Arielle noted that the library now has a paperback Romance collection, to fill the empty shelves at the beginning of Adult Fiction, and noted also that there was "a wonderful editorial," titled *In Praise of Libraries*, in last week's edition of the *East Hampton Star*. The *Star* cited statistics from the Suffolk Cooperative Library System showing that three million digital books had been checked out last year, putting our county "on par with San Francisco."

VI. Secretary's Report. Shari Thompson reported the loss of her standard poodle Valentino, "the library dog," at the age of ten. Valentino had been featured at children's story hours, and in his memory a special bookplate was made for the library's copy of *Dog Wants to Play*, a favorite with which every "read with Valentino" began. Dan Mongan moved that a resolution be passed in appreciation of Valentino. Approved by unanimous consent and with Shari's thanks.

VII. Trustee Reports. None.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Committees. The draft of the Statement of Purpose for the Committee on Committees, to create best practices, was approved by unanimous consent.

IX. Old Business

A. Resolution to pass the Policy for Use of Videoconferencing at Public Meetings. Approved by unanimous consent.

B. Annual Appeal. Director Arielle Hessler reported that this year's appeal raised \$37,196 from some 100 donors. Since our outreach was broader than it was last year---1,000 additional copies were mailed to patrons who have addresses in New York City and in places other than Amagansett---contributions were received from new donors and from donors who were returning after not having contributed for a year or more.

C. Bylaws review. Some proposed changes to the library's trustees' bylaws, pertaining to the requirements for serving as a library trustee, were considered, and it was agreed that they will be further reviewed and will be voted on at our next board meeting,

X. A. Motion to approve the Noble Elevator Company contract for 2023, at an additional cost of \$5.00 per quarter (\$20.00 total). Approved by unanimous consent.

B. Resolution to accept the resignation of Trustee Lynne Weinlandt. Approved by unanimous consent, and with gratitude and regret.

C. 2023 Trustee election. There will be three open slots on the library board---one two-year term and two three-year terms. Candidates must be Amagansett residents and be able to commit to monthly board meetings, and are asked to submit a letter of interest and a biography by February 25th. Amagansett library cardholders are eligible to vote, and voting will take place from March 1st through March 19th, in person at the library or by absentee ballot. Flyers announcing the election will be sent to the *Star* and will be at the library's circulation desk, and we will consider sending them home to parents of the children at the Amagansett School. Marc Donnenfeld, having served one term as a trustee, can run for reelection.

D. Report on Moving our Fiscal Year from Calendar to Academic Year. The report was reviewed, and it was agreed that the board might want to make the change in the future but not at present.

XI. Approval of Regular Bills. Approved by unanimous consent.

XII. Approval of the Personnel Report. Approved by unanimous consent.

XIII. Correspondence. Director Arielle Hessler noted that the library received a letter from the Hamptons Observatory, thanking us for co-hosting and promoting their virtual lecture, *The Astronomical Calendar*, on January 19th. Arielle noted that the library's Zoom program attendance has been enthusiastic. *The Astronomical Calendar* had 105 attendees, and there were 93 for *Gut Health*, which we hosted and was one of a series sponsored by East End libraries.

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

XV. Executive Session. There was an Executive Session from 10:10 to 10:25 in which Director Arielle Hessler was included and a personnel matter was discussed.

XVI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.

Next Meeting Date: February 24, 2023, at 9:00 am