

**AMAGANSETT FREE LIBRARY  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
Approved Minutes of April 28, 2023**

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President), Dan Mongan (Treasurer), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Barbara Hill, Linda MacCracken, 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 9:05.

I. Approval of Agenda. Amended to include item VIII B and approved by unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Minutes of March 31, 2023 Annual Meeting and Regular Meeting. Approved as amended, by unanimous consent.

III. Financial Report. Treasurer Dan Mongan noted that our budget for operations and maintenance is high for this time of year, due to the roof leak that was repaired. Also it was noted that on Monday, May 8th, at 4:30, in the library's Community Room, there will be an open meeting with information on the budget vote. The vote will take place at the Amagansett School on Tuesday, May 16th, from 2:00 to 8:00. Information on the budget is available, in English and in Spanish, in person at the library and on our website, and has been sent out to the names on the library's mailing list.

IV. President's Report. President Marc Donnenfeld had nothing special to report.

V. Director's Report. Director Arielle Hessler reported that she is continuing to look for an HVAC maintenance company for the library and that Weber & Grahn Air Conditioning and Heating is putting together a quote and, in the process, has inspected our systems and found that our air-conditioning units are currently working.

Arielle reported also that our library now has blood-pressure kits to lend to patrons, as part of a county-wide effort. A kit can be borrowed for 28 days.

Arielle noted that tomorrow, from 1:00 to 4:00, the library will celebrate Arbor Day with a drop-in event. There will be activities for children, and American Beech saplings will be given out. The American Beech is a local species. Our Saturday storytimes at Amber Waves Farm will resume in May, and a Dungeons & Dragons program that we had for teens on Monday, April 10th, was very successful and attracted six new attendees, one of whom emailed the library with his thanks. A similar program will be offered for teens during school breaks.

In response to a question from a board member, Arielle said that our library's programs are constantly being evaluated, and explained the ways by which they are assessed.

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

VII. Trustee Reports. Dan Mongan reported that the East Hampton Nature Preserve Committee has come up with a management plan for the 19-acre Amagansett Plains Preserve, at 555 Montauk Highway, and that the Town Board can vote to approve the plan at any time (there is no timeline). The board was also notified of this plan through correspondence sent by AVIS (see

item below: XII, Correspondence). 555 was purchased by the Town with Community Preservation Fund money for "agricultural open space and recreation," but the management plan includes impermeable paving, permanent restrooms, the possibility of a structure for indoor sports, a parking lot with no limit on size, and use for special events. 555 is among the last open farmlands left in Amagansett. Dan has been advocating, in the community, for appropriate preservation; last week he presented a list of ten recommendations for 555 to the Amagansett Citizens Advisory Committee and to AVIS's board and advised the Town in writing, and in person at a public meeting, that based on his review, the current draft plan is not compliant with applicable law. Both ACAC and AVIS are pressing the Town Board for a revised management plan; ACAC has drafted a resolution, and AVIS has sent a letter. In view of our library's mission "to serve the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community," it was discussed if the library board should write a letter in support of the Amagansett community members who are concerned by the plan.

Barbara Hill brought forward a motion, seconded by Shari Thompson, for the library trustees to prepare a letter to be sent to the Town Board, with copies to be sent to ACAC and to AVIS, in support of the community concerns as outlined in ACAC's recommendations for the Amagansett Plains Preserve. The letter will be drafted by President Marc Donnenfeld with such assistance as he may deem appropriate and will be reviewed by the trustees. Motion passed with all in favor, except that Dan recused himself because of his high-profile advocacy.

#### VIII. Committee Reports

A. Building and Grounds. Committee Chair Calandra Sheen reported that the committee met with Arielle Hessler last week and toured the library, and put together a list of maintenance projects, based on our 2017 facilities assessment, that are being given priority: attending to a basement leak (we will try regrading for now and will fix it when we upgrade our HVAC, within the next year or two); adding safety treads to the exterior concrete stairs; redoing the entrance walkways (the front walkway is cracked); getting an estimate to sand and repaint the building trim; and soft-washing the building to remove lichen and possibly washing the roof as well (this should be started soon, before new plants go into the garden).

The committee selected Calandra Sheen as chair, and drafted a statement of purpose according to board committee guidelines. Approved by unanimous consent.

B. The Nominating Committee proposed that our 2022-2023 officers be candidates for re-election; no other candidates were proposed or volunteered themselves. Voting was done by secret ballot, and all four of our officers were unanimously re-elected for 2023-2024.

#### IX. Old Business

A. Strategic Plan. Policy Committee members Dan Mongan and Sadie Stephenson noted that the committee "has been busy behind the scenes" and will present a report to the board at a later date.

#### X. New Business

A. Motion to approve the Charlie & Sons garden contract for the library's window-box flowers and garden. Approved by unanimous consent.

B. Motion to approve the SCLS (Suffolk Cooperative Library System) Member Library Support 2023 invoice. Approved by unanimous consent.

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

XII. Correspondence. A letter was sent by AVIS to the library trustees about the Town's plan for the 555 property and the concerns being raised by ACAC and AVIS.

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

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

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

XVI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 at 9:00 am.**