

AMAGANSETT FREE LIBRARY  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
Approved Minutes of June 23, 2023

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President), Dan Mongan (Treasurer), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Barbara Hill, Linda MacCracken, Sadie Stephenson, Arielle Hessler (Director). Also present, for part of the meeting: Al Coster, of Baldessari & Coster LLP, the library's accountants. The meeting took place in the library's Community Room and was called to order at 9:05 by President Marc Donnenfeld.

I. Approval of Agenda. Approved by unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2023 Regular Meeting. Approved, as amended, by unanimous consent.

III. Financial Report. Treasurer Dan Mongan said that he had nothing special to report. Al Coster then presented and reviewed our Financial Report with Additional Information (in a binder), dated December 31, 2022, along with a letter, dated May 23, 2023, explaining Baldessari & Coster's accounting procedures. Al noted that our report "is as good as you can get."

IV. President's Report, President Marc Donnenfeld noted that "the library is working wonderfully" as we start the summer season, and thanked the staff and the trustees.

V. Director's Report. Director Arielle Hessler noted that she will be away from June 28th until July 5th and that in her absence, Kimberly Parry and Corinne Page will be in charge and can reach her if necessary.

Arielle reported that the library will have a Summer Open Evening on Friday, July 7th, from 5:00 to 7:00, that will be similar to last year's, but that this year the library will be operative during the event, whereas last summer we were closed.

Arielle called special attention to a copy of an article, *Understanding how suburban public libraries respond to the health and social needs of communities*, that was included in our board packet for this meeting. Long Island libraries were the research subjects for this article, and we agreed that we will come to next month's board meeting prepared to discuss it.

Arielle further reported that we will be getting a quarterly maintenance report from Weber & Grahn Air Conditioning and Heating, that we have still not received any applications for our local-history librarian opening and might have to wait until the position can be full-time, and that we are looking to hire at least two student pages.

Representatives of our library marched with the Hampton Library in the Second Annual Hamptons Pride Parade, in East Hampton, on Saturday, June 3rd, promoting our belief that libraries are for everyone. We hope that next year the East End libraries will all march together and that our mascots, Angus and Cornelius, can march, too. And on Saturday, June 10th, we had a table in the History Fair, on the Town Hall grounds, that opened East Hampton's 375th anniversary celebration. We displayed historical photos and scanned postcards and prints from our local-history archive, and distributed our calendar of upcoming events. Our table attracted many visitors.

On Sunday, June 25th, our summer reading program, Amagansett Reads Together, will be launched. All participants will receive a free copy of *The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer, in English or in Spanish. The library will plan events this summer, related to the book, which is appropriate for all ages. "The idea," Arielle noted, "is that everyone in Amagansett will have a common book to discuss."

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

VII. Trustee Reports. None.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Finance. The Finance Committee's statement of purpose was approved by unanimous consent.

IX. Old Business. None.

X. New Business.

A. Motion to approve the Annual Financial Statements prepared by Baldessari & Coster LLP. Approved by unanimous consent.

B. Approval of the annual agreement for legal services with Volz and Vigliotta, PLLC. Approved by unanimous consent.

C. Motion to approve the Animals in the Library policy, which, Director Arielle Hessler noted, every library has. The policy will not allow animals in the library, except for service animals, service-animal trainees, and animals featured in programs sponsored by the library. Approved by unanimous consent.

The issue of animals in the library (i.e., bringing pets into the library) led to a discussion of the possibility of devising a policy for cell-phone use, and/or having a special area for cell-phone use, in the library. For present purposes, it was agreed that the board will support Director Arielle Hessler's efforts to maintain the ambiance of the library as a quiet place in which our patrons are undisturbed in accordance with the library's Designated Spaces Policy and Patron Behavior Policy.

D. Motion to approve the Leave of Absence policy addition to the library's Employee Handbook. Approved by unanimous consent.

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

XII. Approval of the Personnel Report. Approved by unanimous consent. There were no changes in personnel this month.

XIII. Correspondence. The library received a letter from the Hamptons Observatory, thanking us for co-hosting their virtual lecture *The Condor Array Telescope*, presented by Dr. Kenneth Lanzetta, researcher and professor in Stony Brook University's Department of Physics and Astronomy, on June 8th. A video of the program can be seen on the Observatory's site on YouTube.

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

XV. Executive Session. From 10:50 to 11:00, there was an Executive Session in which Director Arielle Hessler was included and in which private donor information was discussed.

XVI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03.

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, July 28, 2023, at 9:00 am.**