

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

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President), Dan Mongan (Treasurer), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Sadie Stephenson, Linda MacCracken, Barbara Hill, 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. Approved by unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 29, 2023 Regular Meeting. Approved, as revised, by unanimous consent.

III. Financial Report. Dan Mongan reported that as was approved by unanimous vote of the board at last month's regular meeting, the library has opened a brokerage account with M&T bank, with an initial investment of \$100,000 in a six-month treasury bill.

IV. President's Report. Marc Donnenfeld noted that a draft of the library's annual appeal will be sent to the board for approval before it is mailed out.

V. Director's Report. Arielle Hessler reported that as we did last year, we will send our annual appeal to Amagansett post-office boxholders and up to 900 library patrons who have non-Amagansett mailing addresses. The total cost is slightly more than it was last year.

Arielle reported also that she would like to attend the New York Library Association's annual conference in Saratoga Springs, next week, from Thursday through Saturday, preceded by a workshop on Wednesday. Arielle reported also that Kimberly Parry, our Head of Adult and Teen Services, would like to attend the Public Library Association's 2024 conference in Columbus, Ohio, in April. Attendance at both conferences was approved and encouraged by the board.

A new laptop has been purchased for the use of the library's clerical staff. It will replace a desktop computer that could no longer run Sierra, our cataloguing and circulation software. The retired computer is in storage as a backup.

Arielle noted that last Saturday, our library had a table, with raffles and giveaways and our Library Wide flyers, at the East Hampton High School's Homecoming Festival, and that our staff members Kimberly Parry and Julianna Vargas connected with teens. Also on Saturday, Les Paldy, a professor emeritus at Stony Brook University and a former CIA and Marine Corps officer, gave a very well attended talk on the Nazi saboteur landing on the beach in Amagansett in 1942.

The library has had displays of Halloween- and spooky-themed books for all ages this month, and starting in November, will continue the half-hour Baby Farmers Music sessions, with local musician Job Potter, that were held at Amber Waves Farm on Saturday mornings this past summer. Music Is Fun (ages 6 to 18 months) is co-sponsored by the library and Amber Waves, and will be at the library in the off-season.

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

VII. Trustee Reports. None.

VIII. Committee Reports.

A. Policy. The Policy Committee did not meet during the past month.

B. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee did not meet during the past month.

C. Buildings and Grounds. The Buildings and Grounds Committee did not meet during the past month, but Arielle Hessler noted that she will meet with the director of a library that is going through an HVAC replacement, to get the benefit of their experience before we embark on replacing our system.

IX. Old Business

A. Annual Appeal. The annual appeal will be sent out in mid-November. It was suggested that there might also be an appeal during the summer, to attract seasonal residents and library users, and that a line of library-themed merchandise (e.g., t-shirts) might be developed.

B. Board Meeting Dates and Library Holidays for the 2024 Calendar Year. Approved by unanimous consent.

X. New Business

A. Suffolk Cooperative Library System 2024 Draft Budget. For this meeting, the trustees were given copies of the draft budget. The final budget will go out in November, to be voted on by member library boards. Since this will be before the date of our November meeting, we voted on the draft budget and approved it by unanimous consent.

B. Long-Range Planning Discussion: Collections. Policy Committee Chair Sadie Stephenson opened the discussion, in which it was agreed that our print, audiovisual, and digital collections should continually be evaluated. Arielle Hessler noted that physical audiobooks are no longer popular and that we might find ways to deaccession them. Providing passes to local museums (as the East Hampton library does), having sewing machines and handicraft tools that patrons can borrow, and offering classes in, e.g., knitting and crocheting were ideas that came up. It was noted that there will be an eclipse in April and that library activities could be organized around it.

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

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

XIII. Correspondence. None.

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

XV. Executive Session. There was no need for an executive Session.

XVI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, November 17, 2023, at 9:00 am