

AMAGANSETT FREE LIBRARY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Approved Minutes of February 23, 2024

Present: Marc Donnenfeld (President), Calandra Sheen (Vice President), Dan Mongan (Treasurer), Shari Thompson (Secretary), Barbara Hill, Linda MacCracken, Arielle Hessler (Director). Also present: Natalie Abatemarco. 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 of January 26, 2024 Regular Meeting. Approved, as amended, by unanimous consent.

III. Financial Report. See item VIII. B, below.

IV. President's Report. President Marc Donnenfeld thanked the board and Director Arielle Hessler for getting the budget materials for this meeting organized thoroughly and completely.

V. Director's Report. Director Arielle Hessler reported that MBI Plus Electric, Inc. bypassed ten nonfunctioning fluorescent light ballasts in the library and replaced them with compatible LED bulbs. The final invoice for this work has not been yet been received.

Arielle reported also that she and our Children's Services Coordinator, Daaimah Lyon, attended Library Advocacy Day in Albany on February 6th and 7th, and that Nancy Chuya attended the two-session Cataloging 101 course given by the SCLS (Suffolk Cooperative Library System) on February 7th and 14th.

Arielle noted that the library has received a generous donation of \$2,500, for which we are most grateful, from David Sonenberg.

Arielle noted further that beginning the first week of April, the library will be open until 7:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

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

VII. Trustee Reports. Treasurer Dan Mongan suggested that in the future, candidates in the library's trustee election be encouraged to attend a monthly board meeting, to see how we work. Dan noted that he was "happy" with this year's budget process.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Policy. No report this month.

B. Finance. Committee Chair Dan Mongan, with members Barbara Hill and Marc Donnenfeld and Director Arielle Hessler, reviewed the library's proposed 2025 operating budget in full, noting that when the library budget vote takes place, in May, we will be asking for a tax levy increase of 4.9% to 5.25%. (There is a difference of \$4,752 between the two.) This is less than we asked for last year, and Dan observed that we're asking for increases, this year, "for things that are valuable to people who use the library." A vote was taken, and the 2025 library budget proposal of 5.25% was approved by unanimous consent.

C. Buildings and Grounds. No report this month.

IX. Old Business. None.

X. New Business

A. Motion to approve the 2024 Trustee Election Ballot Materials. Approved by unanimous consent.

B. Motion to purchase a six (6)-month treasury bill, not to exceed the amount of \$102,000, with the library's M&T brokerage account. Approved by unanimous consent.

C. Motion to approve the 2025 Library Budget. See item VIII. B, above.

D. Motion to override the 2025 tax cap, if necessary. Approved by unanimous consent.

E. Motion to approve the SCLS invoice for 2024 services. Approved by unanimous consent.

F. Long-Range Planning Discussion: Review. The board reviewed a five-year (2020-2025) plan for the library and were given, for comments and suggestions, long-range-planning notes from the board's monthly discussions, compiled by former trustee and Policy Committee Chair Sadie Stephenson and Director Arielle Hessler. The board discussed ways to get input as to how the library can best meet the needs and interests of the community, and noted the importance of getting input from the library staff.

It was suggested, and agreed, that at the March board meeting, a list and description of our standing committees be given out and that the committees be formed in April.

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

XII. Approval of Personnel Report (no changes). Approved by unanimous consent.

XIII. Correspondence. None.

XIV. Period for Public Expression. Natalie Abatemarco, a longtime library user and a candidate, in this year's trustee election, for a three-year term, suggested, in response to a question, that the library build programs and activities on the strengths of the staff. Then, with the board about to go into Executive Session, she excused herself from the meeting.

XV. Executive Session. From 10:30 to 10:50 there was an Executive Session in which Director Arielle Hessler was included and personnel matters were discussed.

XVI. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, March 22, 2024. Annual Meeting to begin at 9:00 am, and to be followed immediately by Regular Meeting.