

Canton Library Board of Trustees Meeting

March 21, 2023

Attendees: Joah Schottenfeld, Betty Chelmow, George Comeau, Emily Prigot, Jan Chamberlain, Chris Untersee, Nancy Connery, Chair Peg Mead, Director Andrea Capone, Susan Cogliano (on phone).

Community Guests: Town Manager Charlie Doody and Mindy Millman

Chair Peg Mead called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes from the Feb 21, 2023 were unanimously approved after a motion by Chris Untersee and a second by Betty Chelmow

Town Administrator Report on Centralized Maintenance

Town Administrator Charlie Doody reviewed the rationale for centralizing town maintenance contracts. He said that there will be cost savings to the town and it will be a more efficient way to contract with vendors. A question was asked about how taking away autonomy for contacting repair vendors will affect prompt repairs. Doody responded that this will be managed by a new director who will manage all the requests and ensure that acuity of repair request is considered.. Trustees had questions about whether taking these maintenance budget items from the library's budget would affect the ability to receive state aid from the MBLC. Director Capone had checked this with MBLC and responded it would not. Another question was whether we need to worry about the end dates we may have with existing contracts. Doody responded that he will check on this. Doody also said that more routine and preventive maintenance would be part of this centralized model which should support fewer issues. Currently Director Capone has to manage building issues which is time consuming and pulls her away from her primary responsibilities.

Director's Report

March is Women's History Month at the library. Please check out our fantastic book displays in both the main lobby and in the Junior Room. Following our success in February, the JR has developed a scavenger hunt for children using clues about important women in American history. Older children are encouraged to look for clues in the stacks and utilize the online catalog to complete the search!

This month we welcomed **118 new users** to our library, and circulated **15,288** physical items to our patrons. This represents a **4.06%% increase** in physical item circulation compared with our numbers from February 2022! We sure are busy here at the library! Users checked out **6,753** digital items from our Hoopla and Overdrive collections. In February we hosted **97 programs**

and events and welcomed **11,182 visitors** through our doors. **419 patrons** used our library computers to connect to the internet.

390 people enjoyed 11 storytimes for ages 0-5 years old. **24 children attended** a Family Bingo program geared towards 7-11 year olds. **128 make and take crafts** were distributed to families. The Buildwave program for children had **22** in attendance, Battle Bots was attended by **36**, and **STEAMer's Guild was also sold out at 30 attendees**. **13** residents of all ages attended our Walk and Stroll club and **70** people jammed out to Toe Jam Puppet Band with us!

30 children and their grown-ups attended the second Lego Club program! Last month our Lego Displays didn't last very long as curious kiddos found them too tempting to resist. This month our brilliant staff designed a way to reuse some old covid plexi-glass to create a fabulous display over by our graphic novels! Now children can proudly and safely display their Lego Creations!

We are collecting Pajamas for Cradles to Crayons this month, and welcome donations of any sized sleepwear to provide foster children comfort. Larger sizes for teens are very much in demand. Donations can be dropped off in the JR room.

Our Technical Services Librarian, Amie Grosshans hosted a very successful Valentine craft for adults with **20 adults attending** and a "choose your own craft" program had **17** adults attending. The adult Fiction Book Club was rescheduled due to the weather.

Bonnie Jette, our friendly Circulation Librarian held the Biography Book Club for adults and decorated our lobby for seasonal holidays. Bonnie also oversees the Museum Pass Program and we have seen a real uptick in usage of this important community service. We currently offer our patrons the following discounted or free passes: Boston Children's Museum, Easton Children's Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, DCR Parks Pass, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Plimoth Plantation, and Zoo New England. These passes are generously funded by our Friends of the Library. You can reserve all of our passes online through the library website, and many passes have gone completely digital! With your library card and just a few clicks you can download a pass directly to your phone or print from your device!

This is our busiest quarter of the year for passports. Over the first four months we have executed 147 passports for our community! Kudos to our amazing librarians for working overtime to meet the needs of Canton patrons.

Our seed library has launched! Members of the community have been so excited by our project! Stop by the main lobby of the library and choose from a selection of free seeds, cataloged by "level" of gardening experience required. Try your hand at growing a new flower or vegetable and if you succeed, return some seeds next season for another gardener to try out! Our Reference Librarian Ashley Perry kicked off the Seed Library with a gardening program for adults that was very well received. Great work Ashley!

Young Adult Librarian Rosie Moore has been hard at work putting on programs for our Tweens and Teens. Each Saturday roughly 28 teens attended Dungeons and Dragons. Weekly, she

hosts a Podcasting program on Mondays, a Dot Journaling program on Tuesdays, and a Game Night on Wednesdays as well! The Young Adult For Everyone Book Club is an all ages program that is extremely popular (and a great way for parents to read with their teens)!

Library Reading Garden

Discussion around the Reading Garden and the formation of a sub-committee to help select a designer. Susan Cogliano, Jan Chamberlain and Emily Prigot will participate in the sub group with Susan chairing. Chair Peg Mead asked the group to return with a recommendation at next month's meeting.

Financial Report:

Director Capone distributed the budget report to Trustees for review which she said is in very good shape. Presentations to the Finance Committee, Select Board, and Capital Outlay Committee have been completed. Library capital budget requests of roof and HVAC repairs were approved. New carpeting for the first floor was not approved and a new book drop request was only partially funded.

Friends of the Library Report:

The Friends of the library met on March 20th. The Friends have generously committed to funding \$3,000.00 for our LSTA grant application to purchase equipment for a mobile kitchen. Canton Writes has launched a 14th season! We look forward to many participants in this fantastic writing program once again this year. Submissions due by April 12th. Friends of the Canton Library book bags will be on sale at the library at the end of the month; they will be \$5 for those who are a Friends Member and \$15 for non members. Trivia Night will be held at the library on Saturday, 5/13 with doors opening at 7:00. Tickets are \$15 or \$75 for a table of 6. Refreshments will be served and there will be a cash bar.

Canton Reads Report:

Programs are being finalized for our Canton Reads events which will focus on the book "Reading Lolita in Tehran". The publicity campaign has been launched and press will be showing up on Canton Cable, the Citizen, and social media over the next few weeks.

Please mark your calendars for the following:

Persian Author Marjan Kamali will discuss the current plight of Iranian women and their brave response to oppression. Marjan will integrate readings from her acclaimed novel, The Stationery Shop on April 27.

Professor Houchang Chehabi will discuss veiling and violence in recent Iranian history on April 24 at 7 pm.

Wednesday, April 25 at 7 pm for a virtual talk on the History of Book Bans in the United States.

Interior Revitalization Committee:

The IRC (Nancy Connery, Joan Schottenfeld, Emily Prigot, Betty Chelmow, Director Capone and former Trustee Vin Shea meet every other Wednesday at 5:00PM via Zoom. They are in the process of hiring a marketing consultant to help with the fundraising project.

Upcoming Programs and Events:

In addition to the many Canton Reads events we have planned for the month of April, we are pleased to offer the following programs:

Jungle Safari with Animal Experience, half day March 31st from 3:00-4:00PM.

Planning for Medicare- Countdown to 65, April 4th from 2:00-3:00 PM

50+ Job Seekers Network, April 5th from 9:30-11:30 AM, via Zoom.

Library Escape Room- All Ages! All day! April 7th.

Adult Film Series, April 20th at 6:00 PM.

Memory Café, April 23rd 1-3:00 PM

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16th, 2023 at 7:00.

A motion to adjourn was made by Betty Chelmow and seconded by Joan Schottenfeld.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Connery Secretary