

## Canton Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes April 18, 2023

Attendees: Betty Chelmow, George Comeau, Emily Prigot, Chris Untersee, Susan Cogliano, Jan Chamberlain (via zoom), Nancy Connery (via zoom) Chair Peg Mead and Director Andrea Capone

Absent: Joan Schottenfeld

Community Guests: Alan Rappaport, David McCarthy, Kathleen Howley, Donald Johnston, Jim McCarthy, Mindy Milman, Pauline OLeary

Chair Peg Mead called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM

The March 21, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved after a motion by Betty Chelmow and second by Chris Untersee.

### **CDEI Pride Program Discussion**

Alan Rappaport from CDEI spoke about how growing up gay in Canton he had always felt the library was a place of safety and would like to propose that a CDEI sponsored, event similar to the one held last year, be held again this year on June 1, 2023 at 6:00 at the library. This would include raising the Progress Pride Flag that evening.

George Comeau then made a motion that we fly the flag for no more than two weeks in June. This was seconded by Susan Cogliano. Chris Untersee then questioned why we wouldn't fly it for the entire month of June as it is Pride Month and in keeping with what we did last year as well as what the state does.

There were comments and questions from some of the visitors about why we fly this flag and not others. There was also a comment of support about how this had meant so much to her child and her family last year.

George explained that this is in keeping with the Library's Display of Flags Policy which incorporates a recent Supreme Court ruling, i.e "flags will be displayed in conjunction with official events, proclamations, or ceremonies as announced by the President of the United States, the Governor of the Commonwealth, the Great and General Court, or the Select Board of the Town of Canton".

The motion was made by Chris to amend the previous motion and to fly the flag for the entire month of June. This was seconded by Emily Prigot. The motion was carried by a 7 to 1 vote.

## **Board Reorganization After an Election**

Chair Mead and former Chair Susan Gogliano will be drawing up a ballot to be voted on at the next meeting on May 16,202

## **Director's Report**

Canton Reads 2023 is here! Our community-wide reading program encourages all residents to read a selected title and attend programming related to the book. **This year's theme is: Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us.**

Pick up your copy of *Reading Lolita in Tehran* the Best-selling memoir by Azar Nafisi. We'll be conversing with local authors in April along with other programs that connect with the book's themes of women and gender, literature, and resistance!

This month we welcomed **147 new users** to our library, and circulated **17,598** physical items to our patrons. Users checked out **5,403** digital items from our Hoopla and Overdrive collections. In March we hosted **113 programs** and events and welcomed **24,269 visitors** through our doors. **521 patrons** used our library computers to connect to the internet.

**420 people** enjoyed **14** story times for ages 0-5 years old. **74 children attended** a Safari program for all ages. **180 make and take crafts** were distributed to families and **67 leprechauns were trapped in the library!**

**The Cookbook Club** has returned to the library! Each month adults are encouraged to stop by the front desk and check out a copy of the selected cookbook. On the day of the meeting everyone brings in dishes that they have prepared from the book to enjoy while the book discussion is ongoing. In May we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo with Mexican themed meals. Stop by the desk to sign up today!

The library continues to host monthly meetings of the Memory Café, a program to support those living with or caring for those with memory loss. We are grateful for the support of the many community partners that help make this program possible, including our terrific Department of Elder and Human Services.

Work to repair sections of the library roof is ongoing. There have been masons out working on areas that need immediate attention. The project to replace the entire roof and HVAC system should begin as soon as the Town Meeting approves the funding. A special process will make the funds available immediately instead of having to wait for July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The library elevator has been repaired and has fully passed annual inspection.

This month we submitted the final application for our MBLC LSTA grant "Everybody Eats". If successful, this \$20,000.00 grant will make it possible for us to present a year long culinary literacy program for our community. In October of 2023 and in April of 2024 there will be two major solar eclipses. The library has applied for **a grant** from the **MBLC and the Space**

**Science Institute and funded by NASA** to develop training on Solar Eclipse activities for our community. We expect to **receive 500 pairs of solar eclipse glasses** to distribute free to our patrons through the grant. YA Librarian Rosie Moore attended an all-day workshop on April 13<sup>th</sup> to learn more about planning activities for the eclipses.

Our library will soon have two new planters for seasonal displays in the front of our main entrance. The Canton Garden Club has been extremely helpful in the research and selection of the planters and we are indebted to them for their generosity and expertise.

Raised garden beds, purchased with funds provided for by our last LSTA grant, have been installed in the rear of the library. These beds will be cared for by our teens as they learn how to grow and harvest vegetables and flowers. Members of the public are enjoying our Seed Lending Library, which has received rave reviews. We are excited to see what will grow from all of these exciting projects!

On Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 we received a request to remove the book *Gender Queer: a memoir* by Maia Kobabe from the library collection. Director Capone has communicated our policy to the patron. An evaluation of the request is ongoing and the determination will be shared with the patron in writing once it has been completed.

Thank you to all of our generous community members that donated to our annual Cradles to Crayons PJ Drive! We are so happy to participate in this statewide initiative sponsored by the MBLC to provide children and teens in foster care with comfortable and cozy pajamas.

### **Library Reading Garden - Subcommittee Recommendation and Vote**

Susan Cogliano, subcommittee chair, reported that she, Jan Chamberlain, Emily Prigot and Director Capone had reviewed proposals from four firms which included lists of over twenty four projects. They narrowed down the list to thirteen site visits based on type of project, proximity to Canton and age of project. The recommendation of the subcommittee after reviewing site visits, speaking with people involved in the projects and living with the results as well as the fee for the design was to award the Architectural Services for a Reading Garden and landscape improvement to Warner Larson Architects with a fee of \$16,000.

A motion was made by George and seconded by Emily to award \$16,00 plus \$2,000 if a survey is needed to Warner Larson. The motion passed unanimously.

The Trustees thanked the subcommittee for a thorough and well researched recommendation.

### **Financial Report:**

Director Capone reported that our fiscal year closes on 6/30 and we are approaching our goals for materials spending. We recently received the second payment of the \$49,000 the MBLC awarded the library. We also received credits for loaning out more materials than we are borrowing in our network. All good news on the financial front!

### **Friends of the Library Report:**

Jan Chamberlain, Trustee liaison to the Friends reported that Canton Writes received over 100 entries! This was up from 75 last year. 70% of all entries came from submissions from Canton Schools! Winners will be announced in June with dates TBD.

Trivia Night will be held at the Library on Saturday, May 13th at 8:00 (doors open at 7:00)  
Tickets are \$15 or \$75 for a table of six, refreshments will be included as well as a cash bar.

Emily Prigot, reported that the last Coffee House felt like “pre-COVID” as there was a very big crowd. The next Coffee House will feature Amber Wilds on May 20th.

### **Interior Revitalization Committee:**

Work continues on fundraising plans for the project, some of the working ideas include a 5K Fun Run, A Gala, a Comedy Night and a Motown Night.

### **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:

Game Design Workshop 4/19-4/21. This free coding camp for children is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Canton Public Library.

How Free Speech Saved Democracy: 4/26 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom. Register online.

Memory Café: April 27<sup>th</sup> 1-3:00 PM

Adult craft: Make your own gift cards! April 29<sup>th</sup>, 11:00-1:00 PM in the library Community Room. Register online.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting is Tuesday, May 16th at 7:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Connery, Secretary

