

**Newburyport Public Library
Board of Directors – Regular Meeting
May 1, 2013**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:20PM by James Connolly. Attending, in addition to Mr. Connolly, were Monica Blondin, Kathy Carey, Joseph Donnelly, Barbara Dowd, Marcia Edson, Gary Gorski, Robert Gould and Steven Moore. Also attending was Head Librarian and Recording Secretary Cynthia Dadd. Thomas O'Brien, Elizabeth Valeriani and Mayor Donna Holaday were absent.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 6, 2013 meeting were approved as written, on a motion by Mr. Donnelly; seconded by Mr. Connolly.

Board Appointment

Ms. Dadd introduced newly appointed member Gary Gorski. Mr. Gorski was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Steven Moore who had accepted the Permanent Board position previously filled by Josiah Welch. Other Board members welcomed Mr. Gorski. Ms. Dadd said that she would set an appointment for an orientation meeting with Mr. Gorski.

FY14 Budget Request

Ms. Dadd told the Board that she had attended a City Department Heads meeting that morning. Department Heads were told that the Mayor made few reductions to the budget submissions. Absent a follow-up budget meeting, the library budget will proceed to the City Council as submitted. Ms. Dadd said that the library's budget hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 29th.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Ms. Dadd told the Board that the Friends held a successful spring book sale, netting over \$9,000. A sub-committee of the Friends Board has been formed to discuss/determine the future direction of the book sale(s).

Books in Bloom Fundraiser

The 2nd annual event was a big success, with more than thirty floral designers participating and almost 200 tickets sold. Participating this year were library staff members and city department heads. It was a great evening of blooms, food, music and

raffles, with much positive feedback. The proceeds will be split equally between the Friends of the Library and the Newburyport Horticultural Society.

Newburyport Literary Festival

Again this year, the library was the venue for the children's and teen programs (6 in all) during the NBPT Literary Festival. Ms. Dadd told the Board that the biggest draw was David Biedrzycki who did a program on digital animation. This year's honorees were Matthew Quick who was honored for his writings for teens and Sue Little, owner of the Jabberwocky Book Store.

Review of Information- Microfilm Reader/Printers

At the request of the Board, Ms. Dadd and the library staff recorded usage and revenue data for the library's microfilm reader/printers. These were then compared with costs for paper, toner and service contracts, showing that operating costs outweigh printing charges, which have been used as an offset. After discussion, the Board re-affirmed its philosophy of free service and supported the library administration's service and budget management decision not to repair the library's oldest microfilm machine. Ms. Dadd told the Board that she and the staff feel confident that they are serving the public well with two machines, an older model in the Archival Center and a state-of-the-art reader/printer/scanner in the Reference Department.

New Business:

Teen Loft/Children's Room News

Shannon Schinagl provided the following update regarding children's activities:

April was a busy month in the Children's Room. During school breaks, staff took a hiatus from story times to focus on programming for the school-aged kids. During spring break we offered a multitude of programs: art for 4th and 5th graders, a math program for ages 6-9, a jewelry program for grades 3-6, and two movies. Despite some gorgeous weather, every program was packed.

Planning for summer reading is in full swing. This is going to be an amazing summer. Kids will be encouraged to read 10 books, and they will earn prizes along the way to keep them motivated. We will also be having lots of programming for all ages -- a minimum of four programs a week, in fact!

In order to gear down from the school year, visit schools to talk to kids about summer reading, and prepare for the Summer Reading Program, the Children's Room will have no programming -- including story times -- from mid-May through mid-June.

Jessica Hilbun, Teen Librarian, provided the following report.

In April Jessica attended both the NOBS Program Power Breakfast and the MLA Conference and came away with a lot of wonderful program ideas that she will begin putting into practice this summer.

There were 3 successful programs in April, and in May Jessica is looking forward to putting on 2 Peep diorama building programs titled "Give Peeps a Chance: Peep Diorama Building for Teens."

She is also hard at work planning programs and securing prizes for summer reading. Orange Leaf has generously offered to provide summer reading participants with free frozen yogurt!

Programs for Adults

Ms. Dadd apprised the Board about upcoming programs for adults:

Independent Author Panel

On Saturday, May 11 from 2:00 to 4:00pm in the Program Room, five local authors will discuss their works and the publishing process. James Phoenix, Jim Redfern, Muriel Angelil, Julia Newman, and Sylvia Reilly Collins will present.

Novel Ideas: NPL's Fiction Book Club for Adults

Novel Ideas is a fiction-focused book club. No registration is required to attend, and the club will meet in the Program Room from 7:00 to 8:00pm on the following Tuesdays:

May 14: Arcadia by Lauren Groff

June 11: The Dinner by Herman Koch

Just the Facts Book Club: Nonfiction for Adults

All are invited to the nonfiction book group that meets from 7:00-8:00pm in the Program Room one Wednesday a month. There is no required registration.

May 22: Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo

June 26: At Home: A Short History of Private Life by Bill Bryson

National Preservation Month Series: Nathaniel Tracy and Mary Lee

Lectures on Nathaniel Tracy and Mary Lee, the original inhabitants of the building that is now the Newburyport Public Library: three Thursdays in May, 7-8:30 PM. Program Room.

May 16

Robert Booth, Jr., a historian, author of "Death of an Empire", and the curator emeritus of the Pickering House in Salem, will lecture about Nathaniel Tracy, his life, and his business as a merchant in Newburyport.

May 23

Rick Detwiler, an architectural historian, will lecture about all of Nathaniel Tracy's homes (Newburyport, Roxbury, and elsewhere).

May 30

Judy Anderson, a social and cultural historian, will lecture about Nathaniel Tracy's wife Mary Lee, the Lee family, and their homes.

State Aid Award

Ms. Dadd told the Board that she and the city have been notified of a state aid award in the amount of \$11,437.57, which represents the 2nd half payment of the annual award.

Other – Letter From Patron

Ms. Dadd distributed copies of a letter she had received from a grateful patron, Daniel Deren, who lauded the resources and staff of the Newburyport Public Library.

May Calendar

The May library calendar was reviewed. Ms. Dadd reviewed her meeting schedule for May.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05PM on a motion by Mr. Moore; seconded by Ms. Carey. The next meeting will be held on June 5, 2013 at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Dadd
Recording Secretary