Newburyport Public Library

**Board of Directors – Regular Meeting**

**October 5, 2016**

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 PM by Elizabeth Valeriani. Attending, in addition to Ms. Valeriani, were Monica Blondin, Kathy Carey, James Connolly, Barbara Dowd, Marcia Edson, Gary Gorski, Steve Moore and Sarah Spalding. Also attending was Head Librarian/Recording Secretary Cynthia Dadd. Sarah Holden, Thomas O'Brien and Mayor Holaday were absent.

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 7, 2016 meeting were approved, with corrections, on a motion by Mr. Connolly; seconded by Ms. Blondin.

**Strategic Plan**

Ms. Dadd told the Board that the Strategic Plan for FY2017-2020 was forwarded to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, in both paper and electronic formats. Ms. Dadd and Giselle Stevens will have a wrap-up phone call with Barbara Alevras, the project consultant. Copies of the plan and a short survey about the planning process will be sent to members of the Strategic Planning Advisory Group.

**Policy Review**

Ms. Dadd told the Board that there are no policies currently under review.

**Newspaper Digitization Project**

Ms. Dadd said that staff had already had several questions about the use of the digitized Newburyport newspapers from 1799-1901. Thanks to a generous grant from the Newburyport Area Industrial Development (NAID) Foundation, the NPL has completed the first phase of digitizing the microfilm of Newburyport’s historical newspaper archive. The papers are available online either in the library or remotely, with or without a library card. The link to access this new resource will be on the “[Archival Center](http://www.newburyportpl.org/services/newburyport_archival_center)” and the “[Online Resources](http://www.newburyportpl.org/services/online_resources)” pages of the library website. The digitized newspapers can be searched in three ways: by year, title,or keyword search term.  The next phase of the project will digitize the microfilm of newspapers from the 1700s. The Friends of the Library have submitted a request to the NAID Foundation for funding for this phase of the project.

**Parking Lot**

Ms. Dadd told the Board that she had forwarded an email message from Dorothy LaFrance, retired Head Librarian, to Mayor Holaday regarding the origin of the Harris Street parking lot, at the Board's directive. Neither of the proposals that were submitted for the development of the lot was accepted by the city.

**Friends of the Library Annual Meeting**

Ms. Dadd told the Board that the FOL annual meeting on September 15 was well attended and participants enjoyed a presentation by local artist Richard Jones who also serves as the Newburyport City Clerk. Copies of the talk of last year's speaker, Judge Richard Welch, were available for purchase. New Board members Annette Trivette and Matthew Zeller were appointed at the business meeting.

**New Business:**

**Children’s Room/Teen Loft News/Adult Programs**

Children's : Allison Driscoll provided the following report : Story times resumed mid-month with excellent attendance. Three 3 to 5s sessions had forty-two attendees, three Terrific Twos sessions had seventy-four attendees, and three Library Babies sessions had fifty-eight attendees. The six Wonderful Ones sessions had one hundred and twenty-five attendees. The department offered two stand-alone programs: a STEM Structures afterschool program which had eight patrons in attendance and a Telescope evening at the Waterfront, which had six patrons in attendance. In total, the Children's Room offered seventeen programs with three-hundred and thirteen participants. In October, staff will hold the inaugural meeting of the Science Club (this month's theme will be towers and architecture), offer an after-school program coloring program, and host a sensory playtime for kids ages 0-8. The story time series will continue and a special "fairy doors" craft will be offered.

Teen : Sara Smith provided the following report: The teen department held four programs, with thirty-two total participants.  September was a light month for programming, but a busy October is planned.  There will be many holiday- themed programs, including an india ink scary tree painting session, do-it-yourself window clings, and magic floating candles for Dumbledore's Army.  There will also be a first-ever library -wide pumpkin decorating contest!  Sara also provided a flyer with a full program listing.

**Adult Programs:**

Novel Ideas: NPL’s Fiction Book Club for Adults

October 12 - *The Little Red Chairs*

Just the Facts Book Club: Nonfiction for Adults

October 25 - *H is for Hawk*

Reading Glasses **-** October 26 - *The Heretic's Daughter*

Movie matinees: (Wednesday afternoons) **–** *The Finest Hours, Hello, My Name is Doris, Miracles from Heaven*

**Other special programs:**

October 1 - Historical Newburyport Records ; October 4 - Color Me Calm Adult Coloring Group ; October 5 - Season of the Witch ; October 12 - Making Sense of Medicine with Bob Keller ; October 13 and 27 - Senior Coffee Hour ; October 14 - Holiday Window Clings (teen) ; October 17 - Frightening Foods (teen) ; October 21 - Straw Blown Creepy Trees (teen) ; October 24 - Art Club (monster art) ; October 27 - Craft Beer Basics ; October 28 - Dumbledore's Army (floating candles).

**September Statistics**

Ms. Dadd compared the September statistics to those of the same month the previous year, showing a circulation increase in only two areas, Overdrive e-books and children's CDs. The total circulation was down over 2600, a little less than half of which is non-resident transactions. She said that she will continue to monitor areas in which there are circulation decreases. Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC) directors recently voted to merge all Overdrive Advantage collections into the shared collection. The FY17 cost for Newburyport will be about one-half of what was spent on Overdrive titles last year. Titles will appear in the MVLC catalog and will be available to patrons of all libraries.

**OneCity/OneBook Program**

The Literary Festival is sponsoring this program this year, using the book *Between the World and Me* by Ta Nehesi-Coates. It is directed at high school students and community members. The library's non-fiction book group discussed the title at its September meeting. There will be additional book discussions at the high school and throughout the community. There will be a related program here at the library on November 2.

**Furniture Replacement**

Ms. Dadd told the Board that she is still working on the replacement and/or reupholstering of some furniture in the reading room and 2nd and 3rd floor tower room areas. She has been in contact with the RV Leonard Company for recommendations and price quotes. Ms. Spalding offered a suggestion for reupholstering services done by the Massachusetts Corrections Industries in Norfolk. Ms. Dadd said that she will investigate the details.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**

Ms. Dadd reminded the Board that the Friends of the Library fall book sale is upcoming. Donations for the sale will be accepted beginning Saturday, October 15. The member preview sale will take place on Wednesday, October 19. The public sale will run Thursday, October 20-Saturday, October 22.

**Emily Dickinson Day**

Ms. told the Board that she had been invited by the Powow River Poets to be a guest reader at their Emily Dickinson Day, to be held Saturday, October 15 at the Old South Church. Last year, she participated in a similar event celebrating the poetry of Robert Frost.

**Books in Bloom**

The date of April 8 has been selected for the sixth annual Books in Bloom fundraiser. The planning committee will be holding a kick-off meeting this evening.

**Other**

Ms. Dadd offered an article, two thank-you notes, a Massachusetts Library Trustee orientation schedule and information on the new roof deck at the Memorial Hall Library in Andover.

**October Calendar**

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

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM on a motion by Ms. Blondin; seconded by Mr. Moore. The next meeting will be held on November 2 at 5:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Dadd

Recording Secretary