

Camden Public Library  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Thursday, April 18 at 4 pm via Zoom only

- I. Welcome 4 pm
- II. Public comment
- III. Minutes of meetings
  - a. February 15
  - b. April 4
- IV. Director's report
- V. Committee reports
  - a. Finance/Treasurer (Liz – written report)
  - b. Special Harbor Park Committee (Jeremy)
  - c. Nominating Committee (John)
  - d. Megunticook Citizens Advisory Committee (Susan)
  - e. Facility and Parks update (Nikki and Dave)
- VI. New business
  - a. Board meeting schedule change?
  - b. Possible Board retreat in the fall
- VII. Next meeting date – May 16 @ 4pm
- VIII. Executive session – personnel matter

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes of February 15, 2024, meeting conducted via Zoom.

Attendance

Quorum was in attendance (10 Trustees)

Present: Penny Abbott, John Fitzgerald, Jake Gerritsen, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Nikki Maounis, Alison McKellar, Betsy Perry, Elizabeth Senders, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia, Kendra Watkins, Marti Wolfe

Absent: Jennifer Gromada, Maria Baskin, Erin Donovan, Jeremy Pratt, ~~Sarah Serafini~~ OK

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm EST by Kristen Smith, President.
2. No public comments.
3. The minutes of the January 18, 2024, meeting were reviewed.

Amendments:

- Maria Baskin to Marisa Baskin.
- Sarah Serafini decided not to begin a second term, she did not resign.
- Minutes with amendments approved unanimously.

4. Director's Report

Nikki's report highlighted each CPL staff member and the role they fill at CPL.

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report- Liz Senders

- January had some unusual expenses- Harbor Park storm damage, fire wall issue, and AED device payment.
- Harbor Park storm damage fundraising so far has reaped 8K from 41 donors.
- Budget numbers are on track for this fiscal year.
- Town Budget Committee Meeting-March 21st at 6:30 pm in the French Conference Room.
- Trustees will reach out to the Budget Committee members. Do you have any questions or need a clarification regarding the Library budget request?

Nominating Committee - John Fitzgerald

- Committee met February 5, 2024.
- Skill and interest matrix being developed by committee to help fill gaps.
- A Trustee with a background in engineering and landscaping is needed.
- CPL Board of Trustees unanimously approved Larry Ward as a Trustee and will advance his appointment to the Select board.
- Recently received an application from Patty Eddy.

- Search Committee using a rating system to determine who will be interviewed.
  - Laurie believes we are still in the early days of the search with more applications on the way. Also, we are “right on track” with expenses.
9. New Business -
- Kristen Smith, President, shared the idea of an in person board retreat. With a new ED joining CPL, this event is most important.
  - Natalie reminded board members that summer is a busy time for Trustees. We will have a four-day book sale right on the fourth of July weekend. HAB and CoC are also in July. We will need a lot of volunteers. Feel free to recruit friends or relatives to help.
  - Reminder to sign conflict of interest and return to Nikki.
7. Executive Session - personnel matter  
5:40 pm to 6:08 pm

In Closing:

Penny Abbott completed her second term today. This is her last meeting. Many thanks to Penny for her service.

Next Meeting date - April 18, 2024, at 4 pm. In addition, meeting with Town Budget Committee on March 21st at 6:30 pm in the French Conference Room, Camden Town Office.

Meeting Adjourned 6:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Marti Wolfe  
Trustee, Camden Public Library

## **Camden Public Library Board of Trustees**

Minutes of April 4, 2024, meeting conducted via Zoom.

### **Attendance**

A quorum was in attendance.

Present: Maria Baskin, Erin Donovan, John Fitzgerald, Ken Gardiner, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Nikki Maounis, Jeremy Pratt, Elizabeth Senders, Kristen Smith, Susan Todd, Natalie Travia, Larry Ward, Kendra Watkins, Marti Wolfe

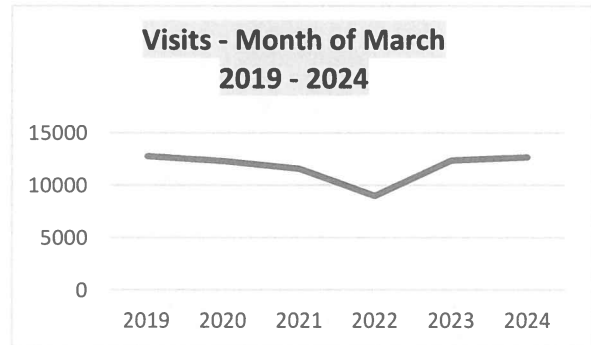
Absent: Betsy Perry

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm EST by Kristen Smith.
2. The Board went into Executive Session at 4:05 pm. The Executive Session ended at 5:23pm.
3. Kristen Smith proposed formation of an ad-hoc Harbor Park Special Committee comprising five Trustees to be separate from the current Building Committee. The purpose of the HPSC would be to represent the Library Board of Trustees in the process underway to place a warrant on the November ballot regarding river restoration and sea level rise in Camden harbor. At 12 members, the current Building Committee is too large to perform the required tasks nimbly. The current Building Committee would remain in place, less the five HPSC members, and continue to oversee activities pertaining to the ongoing maintenance of the Library, Amphitheater, and Harbor Park. After discussion, Kristen proposed a slate of Jeremy Pratt, Susan Todd, Jennifer Gromada, Larry Ward and Marisa Baskin. A motion was made and seconded to form such a committee with those members. The motion passed.
4. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:45 pm EST. The motion was seconded and approved.
5. The next Camden Public Library Board meeting is April 18, 2024, at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Gromada

# Executive Director's Report

## April 2024



### Other News:

Our biggest news of the day revolves around the new Executive Director coming soon. Kristy Kilfoyle will be on site starting Monday, June 3. I will work with her for a day or two and then check back as needed for the next several weeks. Tentative plans are for me to work part-time through the month of May until Kristy arrives and then consult during the month of June. We'll talk more about this at the meeting.

Another important piece of news is that we have signed on with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to be the "affiliate" for Knox County. If you are not familiar with the Imagination Library, it's a national program, but new to our State, and "dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners". We will be taking responsibility for publicizing and organizing the program for families who sign up and live in our school district and/or county. It's a great opportunity for us to continue to reach out to families in our area and promote reading. This outreach will be funded locally by Jennifer Gromada and John Cummings as well as the Maine State Library.

In other, not-so-good news, we have sprung a leak or two in the Reading Room. We saw water dripping near the fireplace about 10 days ago during one of the many storms we've had recently. The second area of concern is located above the beginning of the biography section. Coastal Copper & Slate took a look last week and I am waiting for a quote. I hope to have more information and some photos to show next week.

Along the same lines, during our routine HVAC maintenance this morning, a refrigerant leak was discovered. At least it's not cooling season and we have time to repair before the heat of summer. I am told this fix will take about a day and cost approximately \$2,000. Even the "new" wing of the building is nearly 30 years old and we are finding that equipment is cycling out.

## **Treasurer's Report**

### February

- Please note a new Endowment: the Lynch-Leonard Family Fund. Total bequest to be \$75k for the History Center; \$10k on the books now. Money will be part of our portfolio at Allen Agency and we will pull profits
- A new expense line in the budget: the ED Transition Expense. \$1295 spent in Feb. Nikki guesstimates the total expense amount for the search will total around \$7k
- We have spent the Harbor Parks Appeal money

### March

- A good month, esp. thanks to \$31k in development/fundraising from a few larger donors
- Electric costs have settled down
- An unexpected expense arose: the computer station that runs the HVAC controls needed to be upgraded
- Health insurance premiums increased in January and we are seeing the impact of that on the budget now

### Future

- Nikki gave her end-of-fiscal-year budget forecast, and the overall takeaway is that there is still work to do in the final donations push; looking for about \$40k. As everyone knows, we had numerous unforeseen building and parks expenses in this fiscal year. We also added the executive search expense, which was not part of the FY2023-2024 budget.
- We will need to "find" the \$8k Relocation Allowance for the new ED in the FY2024-2025 budget
- And finally, we have some more upcoming building expenses that will tap into the reserves: there is a leak in the Reading Room and roof work will need to be done. Coastal Copper has already come to take a look and will have an estimate for us soon. Sprinkler maintenance will also need to be done, costing in the ballpark of \$4500.

<b>CAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>				<b>Percentage of</b>		
<b>SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT</b>				<b>year completed-75%</b>		
<b>March 2024</b>						
					<b>Prior Year</b>	
<b>MAJOR CATEGORIES</b>	<b>Mar 2024</b>	<b>July 2023-</b>	<b>FY 23-24</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>July 2022-</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>
	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Mar 2024</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>vs. Annual</b>	<b>Mar 2023</b>	<b>vs</b>
		<b>Actuals</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Prior Yr.</b>
Development Income						
Fundraising Income	31,372	193,326	195,000	99%	138,241	55,085
Campaign-Operational Support	6,250	56,250	75,000	75%	56,250	0
CPL Fund-Camden on Canvas	4,167	37,500	50,000	75%	0	37,500
CPL Fund-Restricted Grant	0	2,000	0	0%	0	
<b>Total Development Income</b>	<b>41,788</b>	<b>289,075</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>194,491</b>	<b>94,584</b>
Program Income	33	39,982	34,000	118%	29,361	10,621
Regular Income	48,924	459,458	611,025	75%	439,956	19,502
Other Income	11,386	90,448	130,844	69%	101,833	(11,385)
Harbor Pk & Amphitheatre	0	25,575	35,200	73%	26,733	(1,158)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>102,132</b>	<b>904,538</b>	<b>1,131,069</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>792,374</b>	<b>112,164</b>
General Expenses	5,770	89,207	103,300	86%	75,710	(13,497)
Books & Acquisitions	5,896	53,662	67,200	80%	51,605	(2,057)
Building Needs	7,339	92,831	122,850	76%	73,632	(19,199)
Development Expenses	0	2,480	4,000	62%	1,844	(636)
Program Expenses	452	11,756	18,000	65%	8,846	(2,910)
Payroll & Benefits	68,705	577,271	752,765	77%	535,619	(41,652)
Harbor Pk & Amphitheater Exps.	3,806	50,287	62,954	80%	35,834	(14,453)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>91,967</b>	<b>877,494</b>	<b>1,131,069</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>783,090</b>	<b>(94,404)</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INC/(LOSS)</b>	<b>10,165</b>	<b>27,044</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>9,284</b>	<b>17,760</b>
<b>ED Transition Expenses</b>	<b>4,252</b>	<b>5,547</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(5,547)</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>	<b>5,913</b>	<b>21,497</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>9,284</b>	<b>12,213</b>
Note: The Library's Fundraising Income includes funds raised in the <b>current fiscal year</b> only. Additional funds carried over from prior years will be held in the CPL Fund until year end and transferred to the library, as needed, to meet budgeted goals. The following summarizes funds earned in the current year and available from previous years:						
	<b>Earned</b>	<b>Carryforward</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Available</b>	
	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>from Prior</b>	<b>Available</b>		<b>vs. Annual</b>	
		<b>Years</b>			<b>Budget</b>	
CPL Fund-Donations/Grants	185,506	13,870	199,376			
Donations via Circulation Desk	1,621	0	1,621			
Subtotal	187,127	13,870	200,997	190,000	106%	
CPL Fund-Stock the Stacks	6,199	7,819	14,018	5,000	280%	
	193,326	21,689	215,015	195,000	110%	

Camden Public Library Budget vs. Actual March 2024			Percentage of year completed-75%			
	Mar 2024 Actuals	July 2023- Mar 2024 Actuals	July 2023- June 2024 Budget	YTD Actual vs Annual Budget \$\$\$ %		
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>						
<b>Income</b>						
<b>DEVELOPMENT INCOME</b>						
<b>Fundraising Income</b>						
<b>Donations-Unrestricted</b>						
4002 · Donations/Grants via CPL Fund	28,927	185,506	190,000			
4010 · Donations via Circulation Desk	69	1,621	0			
<b>Total Donations-Unrestricted</b>	<b>28,996</b>	<b>187,127</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>(2,873)</b>	<b>98%</b>	
4011 · CPL Fund-Stock the Stacks	2,376	6,199	5,000	1,199	124%	
<b>Total Fundraising Income</b>	<b>31,372</b>	<b>193,326</b>	<b>195,000</b>	<b>(1,674)</b>	<b>99%</b>	
4013 · Campaign-Operational Support	6,250	56,250	75,000	(18,750)	75%	
4014 · CPL Fund-Camden on Canvas	4,167	37,500	50,000	(12,500)	75%	
4015 · CPL Fund-Restricted Grants	0	2,000	0	2,000	0%	
<b>Total DEVELOPMENT INCOME</b>	<b>41,788</b>	<b>289,076</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>(30,924)</b>	<b>90%</b>	
<b>PROGRAM REVENUE</b>						
<b>Event Revenue</b>						
4020 · Event Revenue-General	33	3,869	5,000	(1,131)	77%	
<b>4022 · Harbor Arts Revenue</b>						
4022F · Harbor Arts-Fall	0	13,200	10,000	3,200	132%	Complete
4022S · Harbor Arts-Summer	0	21,900	18,000	3,900	122%	Complete
<b>Total 4022 · Harbor Arts Revenue</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35,100</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>125%</b>	
<b>Total Event Revenue</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38,969</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>5,969</b>	<b>118%</b>	
4030 · Room Rental Fees	0	1,013	1,000	13	101%	
<b>Total PROGRAM REVENUE</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39,982</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>118%</b>	
<b>REGULAR INCOME</b>						
4260 · Book Sales	1,381	26,837	37,000	(10,163)	73%	
4265 · History of Camden Book Sales	80	1,040	1,000	40	104%	
4325 · Library Card Fees-New & Renewal	987	10,491	14,000	(3,509)	75%	
4340 · History Center Income	0	101	250	(149)	40%	
4350 · Art Work Sales-Net Profit	0	2,520	1,000	1,520	252%	
4420 · Miscellaneous Income	0	0	200	(200)	0%	
4490 · Photocopy, Printing & Fax Inc	223	2,160	2,500	(340)	86%	
4580 · Miscellaneous Sales	3	58	75	(17)	77%	
4620 · Town of Camden	46,250	416,250	555,000	(138,750)	75%	
<b>Total REGULAR INCOME</b>	<b>48,924</b>	<b>459,458</b>	<b>611,025</b>	<b>(151,567)</b>	<b>75%</b>	
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>						
5140 · Interest Income	111	1,183	1,400	(217)	84%	
5150 · CPL Maintenance Fund	2,935	25,943	34,020	(8,077)	76%	
5160 · Louise Knapp Curtis Trust	1,722	15,274	20,124	(4,850)	76%	



	Mar 2024	July 2023- Mar 2024	July 2023- June 2024	YTD Actual vs Annual Budget	
	Actuals	Actuals	Budget	\$\$\$	%
6505 · Electric	1,354	21,620	24,000	2,380	90%
6510 · HVAC	782	10,043	9,500	(543)	106%
6515 · Heat - Fuel	706	9,905	17,000	7,095	58%
6520 · Telephone Charges	456	4,378	5,700	1,322	77%
6525 · Security Sys-Maint & Monitor	0	747	1,100	353	68%
<b>Water &amp; Sewer</b>					
6540 · Sewer	0	1,711	1,500	(211)	114%
6545 · Water	0	713	1,000	287	71%
6550 · Water Fire Protection	100	896	1,200	304	75%
<b>Total Water &amp; Sewer</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>90%</b>
6599 · Siemens Project Payment	0	0	13,250	13,250	0%
<b>Total BUILDING NEEDS</b>	<b>7,339</b>	<b>92,831</b>	<b>122,850</b>	<b>30,019</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES</b>					
6600 · Development & Annual Fund Exps	0	2,480	2,500	20	99%
6650 · Millay Society Expenses	0	0	1,500	1,500	0%
<b>Total DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>					
6660 · Program Expenses-Regular	452	4,136	10,000	5,864	41%
6670 · Harbor Arts Expenses					
6670F · Harbor Arts Exps-Fall	0	4,197	3,000	(1,197)	140% Complete
6670S · Harbor Arts Exps-Summer	0	3,423	5,000	1,577	68% Complete
6670 · Harbor Arts Expenses	0	7,620	8,000	380	95%
<b>Total PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>11,756</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>6,244</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>PAYROLL &amp; BENEFITS</b>					
<b>Staff Wages</b>					
6700 · Library Staff Wages	54,618	462,696	604,565	141,869	77%
6710 · Temporary Staff	0	0	0	0	
6715 · Unemployment Compensation	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total Staff Wages</b>	<b>54,618</b>	<b>462,696</b>	<b>604,565</b>	<b>141,869</b>	<b>77%</b>
6719 · Payroll Tax Expense	4,297	35,288	46,000	10,712	77%
<b>Payroll Benefits</b>					
<b>Health Insurance</b>					
6735 · Health Insurance Premiums	6,591	55,376	70,000	14,624	79%
6738 · Deductible Reserve	100	900	1,200	300	75%
6740 · Health Ins-Administration	117	1,192	2,000	808	60%
<b>Total Health Insurance</b>	<b>6,809</b>	<b>57,467</b>	<b>73,200</b>	<b>15,733</b>	<b>79%</b>
6745 · Life Insurance	170	1,564	2,000	436	78%
6750 · Retirement Plan	2,812	20,256	27,000	6,744	75%
<b>Total Payroll Benefits</b>	<b>9,791</b>	<b>79,287</b>	<b>102,200</b>	<b>22,913</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Total PAYROLL &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>68,705</b>	<b>577,271</b>	<b>752,765</b>	<b>175,494</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>HARBOR PK &amp; AMPHITHEATRE EXPS</b>					
6805 · Mowing, etc.-P&R Dept.	0	0	6,500	6,500	0%

<b>CAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>				
<b>BOARD DESIGNATED FUND SUMMARY</b>				
<b>as of March 31, 2024</b>				
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Current Yr.</b>	<b>Current Yr.</b>	<b>Balance</b>
	<b>7/1/2023</b>	<b>Donations</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>3/31/24</b>
Facility Reserve	66,569	0	3,904	62,665
Health Deductible/PTO Reserve	9,329	900	5,603	4,626
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>75,898</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>67,290</b>

## Camden Public Library Statement on Harbor Park

April 2024

Camden's Harbor Park was a gift to the people of Camden from Mary Curtis Bok nearly a hundred years ago. Its landscape, designed by Olmsted Brothers, is a historic and scenic treasure that is a defining landmark of the town and harbor. The Camden Public Library Board of Trustees is the steward of Harbor Park.

In recent years, more frequent and intense instances of extreme weather, such as higher tides and stronger winds and storms, are causing repeated and increasing degradation to Harbor Park's shoreline in the form of erosion and structural damage. One-time fixes are no longer financially responsible or sufficient in scope to maintain the safety and appearance of Harbor Park. The Trustees believe that a more extensive project – which may comprise repair, restoration, and / or renovation – is now required to make Harbor Park a safe and appealing public space that will be resilient in the face of projected extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

The Trustees are aware that the Town of Camden is presently investigating an extensive environmental project to address sea level rise in and around Camden, along with river and habitat restoration, which will impact Harbor Park. If such a project is approved by the voters of Camden, to assist the Town and other agencies engaged in the design of a comprehensive solution, the Trustees wish to express their priorities for any project which encompasses Harbor Park. Rather than directing or prescribing a specific solution or components thereof, the Trustees have identified the following important Harbor Park features and usage requirements considered necessary in any proposed design.

- Of utmost importance is fealty to the design philosophy of Olmsted Brothers and the expressed interests of Mary Curtis Bok, who desired to provide a space of beauty and enjoyment for all people. Olmsted's design approach was characterized by a deep appreciation for nature, a commitment to social and environmental values, and a belief in the transformative power of well-designed landscapes to enrich lives, strengthen communities, and harmonize human and natural systems. As noted in Olmsted's correspondence, instantiations of these sentiments in Harbor Park included open grassy grounds like a "New England Common," simple curved pathways, unadorned space, rugged native trees and plants (not flowering), grading that provided unobstructed views into and through the park from various points, and screening plantings to block the view of built structures, to create a place of respite set apart from the town. These features remain as desirable today as 100 years ago.
- Functionally, any proposed design must eliminate or reduce damage to the shoreline and Harbor Park grounds experienced due to weather and water-related events. Grounds and structures should be resilient and maintainable to meet year 2100 storm

Camden Public Library Statement on Harbor Park  
Supporting Information

**Olmsted Comments Regarding Harbor Park:** In 1928, Olmsted Brothers were hired by Mary Louise Curtis Bok to create a plan for the neglected hillside parcel of land between Camden Harbor and Camden Library. Bok likely hired Olmsted Brothers as they were currently working on subdivision and bird sanctuary in Florida for her husband. With Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. taking the lead, he was tasked with reworking the two-acres of land.

To emphasize framed views, Olmsted Jr.'s design needed to employ a strategic grading plan. Curved walking paths take visitors from the street to the shore, with lush planting beds blocking views of nearby homes and stores. Olmsted Jr wanted native plants like American juniper, blueberry and lilac shrubs to flourish, many of which still do as Olmsted Jr.'s plan was carried out.

**From the National Register of Historic Place Registration Form, National Park Service, August 7, 1999:** In contrast, the harbor-side park of Camden is tiny, less than two acres. Rather than being visually separate from the rest of the village, its role has been as a shared visual green space, open to views from within and without. Historically its function has been two-fold: it has provided a series of attractive views of the harbor while at the same time providing a series of views toward and over it from other areas around the harbor, including sections of the library grounds that look directly into it. The number of such visual services for surrounding areas that the park has provided is truly remarkable for so small a space.

First, it provides an almost perfectly semicircular green foreground for the view from the Palladian window in the library, the key vista from that building. Second, it provides a foreground for views from the edge of the library grounds above Atlantic Avenue. Third the principal function of the lower section of the park is to frame a vista toward the harbor from the amphitheater. Fourth, the park is a place from which to view the harbor. The plantings at the Main Street end of the park have served to block views of the unsightly backs of stores along that street. Originally, other shrub groups were planted so as to block views of the backs of houses on Sea Street. Today the plantings on the steep hillside facing the cascade of the Megunticook River as it runs into the harbor also block out the view of the barren public landing and the reflections of the chrome and windshields of the vehicles parked there. Fifth, the park is a spacious green foreground for the view of Mount Battie and Mount Megunticook from the harbor, greatly enhancing that uniquely beautiful harbor view.

**Montgomery Dam and the design of Harbor Park, from National Park Service documents, Bok and Olmsted correspondence, and Olmsted drawings in the Walsh History Center at Camden Public Library:** When Mary Curtis Bok envisioned a park and hired Olmsted Brothers to design it in the late 1920s, the abutting parcel containing Montgomery Dam was owned by J. Hugh Montgomery. This parcel was never purchased by Bok for inclusion in the Harbor Park property nor was it considered part of the Harbor Park

## Olmsted Design Principles

The Olmsted brothers' design approach was characterized by a deep appreciation for nature, a commitment to social and environmental values, and a belief in the transformative power of well-designed landscapes to enrich lives, strengthen communities, and harmonize human and natural systems.

**Naturalistic Design:** The Olmsted brothers were proponents of naturalistic landscape design, which sought to emulate the beauty and functionality of natural landscapes. They believed that landscapes should appear harmonious and integrated with their surroundings, using organic forms, meandering pathways, and native vegetation to create picturesque scenes that evoke a sense of tranquility and immersion in nature.

**Integration of People and Nature:** Central to the Olmsted brothers' philosophy was the idea of designing landscapes that accommodate and enhance human experiences while preserving and celebrating the natural environment. They believed that well-designed parks and green spaces could provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and social interaction, while also serving ecological functions and fostering a sense of stewardship towards the natural world.

**Functional Design:** Olmsted Brothers' landscapes were not only aesthetically pleasing but also highly functional. They carefully considered the practical needs and activities of park users, designing spaces that facilitated various recreational and cultural activities while ensuring accessibility, safety, and sustainability.

**Social Reform and Democratic Ideals:** Frederick Law Olmsted, in particular, was deeply committed to social reform and believed that well-designed public parks and urban green spaces could promote social equity, democracy, and public health. He viewed parks as essential democratic institutions that should be accessible to people of all social classes, providing opportunities for leisure, education, and civic engagement.

**Regionalism and Contextual Design:** Olmsted Brothers emphasized the importance of designing landscapes that respond to the unique environmental, cultural, and historical characteristics of their context. They advocated for a regional approach to landscape design, using local materials, vegetation, and topography to create landscapes that reflect the distinct identity and character of their place.

**Environmental Conservation and Preservation:** Olmsted Brothers were early advocates for environmental conservation and the preservation of natural landscapes. They recognized the ecological value of parks and green spaces in mitigating urban pollution, preserving biodiversity, and protecting natural resources, and incorporated principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship into their design practice.

Camden Harbor Park and Amphitheatre  
Report to the library trustees April 12, 2024

**Finances**

With a little more than two months remaining in the 23/24 fiscal year the Parks Maintenance Budget is already over spent by 25%, with another sizeable bill in the pipeline. As of now storm damage mitigation has cost about \$14,500, which accounts for the overage.

**Maintenance**

No maintenance has been done or needed in the first three months of the year. A lot of the work we usually schedule for the spring was done in the fall.

**Storm Damage**

The most recent storm left a lot of debris and crushed stone washed up on the lower pathway. The benches took a beating. Three were dislodged. One was on the beach, another got shoved back into the shrubs and a third was missing altogether and never recovered. Also, there was a lot of erosion behind the seawall, but the seawall itself remained intact except for one small stone.

Since then, Maine Stone and Landscape has reset the two benches we recovered. They cleaned up all the crushed stone and debris and they have backfilled the erosion behind the seawall with crushed stone.

**Weddings**

The count for weddings in 2024 is now at fourteen. Camden venues suitable for wedding receptions are in big demand. We have lost at least two prospects because they could not find a reception venue available on the day of their wedding. The first wedding occurs on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,

David P. Jackson  
Parks Director



**Camden Public Library**  
**Programs & Events Tracking Form**  
 Month: March 2024

Picker Room Gallery: Portland Press Herald 2023 Photos of the Year

ADULT PROGRAMS							
# of Program Occurrences	Program Name	In-Person	YouTube	Instagram	Zoom	Facebook	Other Online
4	Creative Art & Journaling	5			32		
	Tech Help						
	Walsh History Center Hour						
5	Explorations Read Aloud		152			186	
1	Camden Philosophical Society	5			5		
2	Leery Charlar	5			8		
4	Camden Climate Conversations	16					
7	Tai Chi	34					
	Chess Club						
1	Monday Morning Book Club				12		
1	Songwriters	4					
1	"Wild Maine" Series with CWS: Snakes of Maine with Derek Yorks	50			26		
1	Evolution in an Hour with Bill Portela	6			20		
1	"Wild Maine" Series with CWS: Black Bear Monitoring in Maine with Randy Cross	22			78		
1	Ranger Tales: Conversations with Tim and Buzz Caverly	20			37		
1	Healing Handwork: Drawing Messy Mandalas with Robinsunne (sign ups)	10					
1	Walking Sacred Sites with Margaret Jones	14			12		
1	Midcoast Audubon: The Growth of Trees with Michael Wjtech				101		
1	My Father Was a Spy with Les Fossel, Jr., in collaboration with Camden Conference	24			80		
1	USS Maine with Charles Lagerbom, in collaboration with CRHS	13			13		
1	Portland Press Herald Photos of the Year Exhibit Reception	14					
<b>35</b>		<b>242</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>0</b>

PRIVATE MEETINGS/RENTALS, NOT A LIBRARY PROGRAM							
# of Program Occurrences	Program Name	In-Person	Zoom	Other Online			
1	Bridge Club	8					
1	Union of Maine Visual Artists meeting	20	1				
1	Maine Community Chorus						
<b>1</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			



**PROGRAM DATA SUMMARY - MARCH 2024**

Adult Programs	35
Adult Program Attendance (ON SITE IN PERSON)	242
Adult Program Attendance (ONLINE)	762
Children's Programs	46
Children's Program Attendance (ON SITE IN PERSON)	543
Children's Program Attendance (ONLINE)	4550
YA Programs	9
YA Program Attendance (ON SITE IN PERSON)	0
YA Program Attendance (ONLINE)	4689
Total Views of Programs on YouTube	385
Total Views of Programs on Instagram	9006
Total Participants on Zoom	424
Total Views of Programs on Facebook	186
Total Participants on Other Online Platforms	0
<b>MARCH 2024 TOTALS</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (ON SITE IN PERSON)</b>	<b>785</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (ONLINE*)</b>	<b>10001</b>