

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
March 27, 2018

Staff: I attended American Library Association's "Library Advocacy Bootcamp" on March 12th. It was a good reminder about what excellent resources ALA provides (e.g. samples of online policies). Some key takeaways include the importance of staying connected with the community beyond the four walls of the library, determining community needs and identifying how the library can help to address them. We need to make the argument that libraries are a good and necessary investment. Libraries should be "at the table" during community discussions. Library staff, trustees and key supporters should be able to talk about the breadth of library resources and how "libraries transform lives!" (Goal Two 1c)

Library Business:

- **Finances:** No issues arose with the Town Audit. The library's budget passed at town meeting. One issue of note is that there was an omission in the warrant article. The library's technology expendable trust fund was entirely omitted. While it still exists, no funds were added to it. I discussed this with Neal who explains that it wasn't included because we had budgeted for server replacement in 2017. We replaced the server after our malware attack and insurance covered it, so the decision was made not to add any new funds for 2018. Current CIP balances are as follows:
 - Lib Replacement Building Systems CRF: \$36,150.50
 - Lib Tech Exp. Trust: \$24,610.16
 - Lib Bldg. Fac. Maint. Exp. Trust: \$10,764.28 Goal Two 1b.
- **The collection:** (from February meeting) We are investigating a program that builds on our Downloadable Book contract with the state called "Advantage"—through this we can run reports on how many HTL patrons have holds on downloadable books. We can then decide to buy a copy of that title just for the use of our patrons. I am looking into costs and borrowing traffic and will report back with a recommendation *in April*. We are getting patron feedback on product samples from a library supplier "Playaway" that would add some variety to what we are able to offer patrons including an audiobook product and tablets installed with learning programs. This has been an interesting process so far, particularly since patrons have not been particularly enthusiastic about several of the samples. Goal One 2b and 2c.
- **Anniversary:** (from February meeting) Next steps: establish a committee (Elaine, Elissa Barr, Trina Richardson, Deedy and Dave Jensen, Chuck Gangel?); plan program(s) including family fun day, speaker(s), music? Key dates: June 23rd Opening Day and October 24th: Dedication Day. Feature article looking back by Chris Hamm for *Library Ink*. Hopkinton READS anniversary focus: change to "Hopkinton WRITES" with programs featuring Hopkinton writers. Committee has met and begun planning

Programs: Twenty five people attended the showing at the Warner Town Hall of "Alice's Ordinary People" about the civil rights movement. It was good to partner with the Pillsbury Library in Warner. Four people from Hopkinton attended the event—they encouraged us to show the film in Hopkinton as well. 83 people participated in our craft swap—happy to rid themselves of old stuff and pick up new items. We brought in \$35 at the "pop up" book sale.

Upcoming Programs/Events:

- *AARP Tax Preparation*: Tuesday and Wednesday February through April 15th.
- *Strengthening your Stress Resilience* with Betsy Black. Tuesday March 27th 7-8:30.
- *Gardening Program with Henry Homeyer*. (Sunday April 15th 2pm) Focus on “sculpting the living landscape”; program is in partnership with Hopkinton Garden Club.
- *Tj Wheeler Concert: MLK: The Other Side of the Mountaintop*. (Sunday April 29th 4pm) A special multi-media program commemorating the 50th observance of the assassination of Martin Luther King. The presentation will be performed and conducted by award winning Musician, Educator, Civil Rights activist Tj Wheeler. The program combines live music with archival video and photographs of the Civil Rights movement era.

Goal One 4a and 4b. Goal Two 1k

Building: Irish Electric replaced three of the newly installed dome lights that had partially “grayed out.” This appears to have been a product issue rather than installation. There was no charge.

The issue of our icicles was raised again at Town Meeting by Ron Klemarczk. Elaine spoke eloquently on the library’s behalf, noting how our energy costs have been reduced by almost 40% over the past ten years. It would be helpful to fully assess the attic and the eaves again, with a goal of arriving at a set of options to deal with the icicles. Though we may not wish to (or be able to afford to) make structural changes in the building that would eliminate the icicles, we would at least have additional concrete information to provide critics. I have been in touch with ENE, our HVAC company. They are happy to play a role and recommend another inspection of the attic and insulation including infrared pictures of the building. Paul O’Brien will be happy to come to speak with the trustees as well as community members. He notes, “The infrared pictures may reveal insulation voids as well. We can also get into the attic and scan the insulation with infrared to find insulation voids. The inspection and report may be helpful for the trustee meeting as well. The cost for the inspection is just labor so depending on how long it takes the cost will be between \$360 and \$720.”

Community Relations: We are partnering with the Garden Club on another program on April 15th, featuring master gardener Henry Homeyer. Steve Chamberlin and I are discussing the possibility of another school focused “community read.”

Goal Two 1j and 1k.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop