

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
November 25, 2019

Staff: As part of our new Inclusivity Agenda, we had a staff development session on Monday November 18th, building on the information gained in the focus group for families with kids with special needs facilitated by NH Family Voices in early October. Eight of nine staff members were present for a substantive and thought provoking 3.5 hours. We are now in the process of developing a plan for next steps. Goal Two 1c 1k

Finance: The proposed budget for 2020 was distributed at the October trustee meeting. There is a 3.04% increase over 2019, largely due to personnel costs and returning our maintenance budget to \$6,164 after the select board reduced it by \$5,000 in 2019, using the lightning strike as justification, despite the fact that we had ongoing maintenance costs (e.g. HVAC and sprinkler).

The CIP committee asked several department heads to come in to review requests. The focus of their questions to the library related to the addition of handicapped parking at the front of the library. The estimate after the engineering study by Hoyle Tanner was that this could be done for approximately \$85,000. The Committee suggested that this should be done as part of other renovations of Houston Park. Neal noted that changes to the driveway and parking at Houston Park were “on a back burner.” This is still a project that we should keep speaking about with town but I think it is possible that it will not remain in the CIP budget this year. We have three bids for staining/painting the exterior as follows: Jeff Ackerman: \$27,159; Gabbett Painting: \$35,991; and Chris Wardell’s REVISED BID of: \$26,800. The trustees should review these and get back to the vendor selected so that we can get into their 2020 queue. I have references for all.

I continue to work on the Primex insurance claim. My revised goal is to have it completed in December. Goal Two: 1b.

Programs:

We had thirteen people at the bookbinding workshop, with many requesting more sessions of this kind and a disappointing eight at the Leah Plunkett session on Parents and Social Media. On a wretched afternoon this past weekend, we had thirty four at the Holiday Piano Concert with Deborrah Wyndham. Great to see people of all ages at the event. Upcoming programs:

- Mr. Vinny’s Shadow Puppets (Friday December 6th 6pm)--part of Starry Starry Weekend
- Seed Starting with UNH Master Gardeners. (Monday January 27 10am) with Hopkinton Garden Club.

Programs in Progress include a series related to the “For Freedoms” exhibit currently at the Currier Museum, which builds on FDR’s “four freedoms” speech (freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom to worship, freedom of speech) and Norman Rockwell’s depiction of these and a contemporary interpretation of these themes by Hank Willis Thomas. Proposed programs include Prof. Inez McDermott speaking on Rockwell and Thomas’ interpretations of those images. Prof. Jon Gitelson from Keene State will also come to speak about his work on this project. The Environmental Club at the high school may also be involved. “For Freedom” is a national organization working with communities on efforts to encourage local conversations about contemporary issues.

We are also exploring a multi-week Shakespeare program for middle and high school students, an exploration of *Romeo and Juliet*, culminating in a staged reading of the play for the public. This would be led by Kevin Gardner and would begin in the new year. We will be doing particular outreach to home schooling families. Kevin suggests that we open it up to adult participants as well, with particular outreach through the Slusser

Center. Tentatively that program would be comprised of three weekly after school sessions for a total of three weeks.

Inclusivity Program: To follow up on our staff development session with NH Family Voices, we are also exploring the development of some community programs addressing these issues working with the school district; building our parent collection of materials for loan on related subjects; and creating a series of sensory programs for kids and families with sensory appropriate toys/tools/games. We are also exploring the establishment of a family advisory committee. Goal One 4a and 4b. Goal Two 1k

Building:

Porch Renovation: Jason LaCombe has developed preliminary plans for closing in the porch on the boiler room end of the building. This could include a small study room and expanded storage space. Bergeron is planning to put in a bid for the porch renovation. John Wuellenweber's (Beaux Woods Construction) bid for the project is \$119,600 and Bergeron's bid is \$92,502. We also have three bids for the painting/staining of the exterior of the building that should be reviewed at the November meeting. (See above for details in Finance Section). Goal 2 1a

Planning and Policy: The Internet Use Policy should be discussed at the November meeting. After discussion with the staff, we have decided to test out allowing food in the café area for a month. We will monitor the situation and how well individuals clean up after themselves and proceed from there. We are also working on improved signage in the café.

Community Relations: I spoke about the library's re-opening project at Rotary on Wednesday October 23 at 7am. The library staff prepared Senior Lunch at the Slusser Center on Wednesday November 13th—thanks to Emilie for her help on that. A representative of the US Census will be here again on December 21st to host a table about jobs related to the census. Goal 2 1k

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop