

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

April 28, 2021

Library Staff: We continue to meet every two weeks as a staff, via zoom. It has been a great way to stay connected, since some staff only work on weekends. Barb Diaz' mural in the children's area is coming along beautifully. When you're next in the library, come check it out. The first section focuses on Spring in NH. Goal Two 1c.

Finance: With 67% of the year remaining we have used 30.4% of our budget, so we are on track. We continue to operate with a tentative budget until Town voting takes place on May 1st. The first sessions of the town meeting informational zoom this Monday went smoothly with very few questions.

The NH State Library has been running informational sessions on the "American Rescue Plan Act" or ARPA funding that it will be administering. Public libraries in the state are being encouraged to apply for funding to help reposition during and post Covid. The below is from the state library:

For Librarians-American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through IMLS

The New Hampshire State Library will receive \$2,297,692.00 as part of the **American Rescue Plan Act** (ARPA). The ARPA funds will be disbursed to the NH State Library through the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) **Grants to States program**.

IMLS ARPA Spending Priorities

This funding is to be used by September 30, 2022, to help libraries and their communities respond directly and immediately to the pandemic, as well as to related economic and community needs through equitable approaches. Spending priorities are as follows:

1. First, to support digital inclusion efforts to enable libraries to reach residents such as through internet hotspots, accessible Wi-Fi, and digital content and related resources, particularly in support of education, health, and workforce development needs. The following types of data, among others, can inform efforts to reach underserved populations:
 - o Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - o Unemployment
 - o Broadband availability;
2. Second, to provide rapid emergency relief to libraries across the country, allowing them to safely respond to the pandemic and implement public health protocols;
3. Third, to support library services that meet the needs of communities throughout the U.S., including costs such as personnel, technology, training, materials, supplies, equipment, and associated indirect costs; and
4. With respect to (1), (2), or (3), reach tribal and museum partners best positioned to assist with pandemic response efforts, in addition to traditionally eligible library entities, where appropriate.

These funds may NOT be spent on any construction-related projects.

Funds for lending technology (e.g. mobile hotspots) or programming materials or outreach funds to get the community back to the library safely are some of the program ideas being discussed. The next session is in early May. Goal Two 1a

Library Services: Curbside pickup continues to be steady as does of our circulation of print materials. Circulation in all categories was up by 26% over this time last year, which seems wonderful until one realizes that we closed our doors due to Covid on March 16th. Comparative figures moving forward for a while will not be particularly instructive. We are now open on Wednesdays and until 6 pm on Tuesday. Walk through traffic is good but not overwhelming, averaging between 20 and 30 per day. We still have lower computer usage than anticipated. Goal One 1a

Karen continues to offer a "Drop In Tech Help" program every Thursday via Zoom though few people are taking advantage of the service. She is considering offering targeted sessions on popular topics (e.g. accessing

Consumer Reports, or using Hoopla, or downloading pictures from your phone.) Her monthly book discussion zoom continues to reach approximately twelve participants. Goal One 3e

Programs: Outside story time started up again in April. Families seem to be very happy that it is back, though the numbers are not as high as our views of zoom storytimes. We are considering doing one zoom storytime per month and continuing with weekly outside storytimes. Planning for the Summer Reading Program is underway, with a focus on “Celebrating Community.”

Upcoming Programs include (The first three are part of Hopkinton READS 2021):

- “Put a Poem in Your Pocket” Day takes place nationwide on Thursday April 29th as part of National Poetry Month. Staff selected poems they will be in a basket in the vestibule from 10 to 5 tomorrow for visitors to pick up.
- “Authoring a new Chapter” talk about black artists responses to contemporary culture with Professor Inez McDermott. (Thursday May 13th 7pm via Zoom)
- Book Discussion of “How to Make a Slave” (Jerald Walker) facilitated by Dr. Dottie Morris from Keene State on Thursday May 20th at 1pm and 7pm via Zoom.
- A panel discussion is also being planned..
- “The Call of Kilimanjaro” Zoom presentation. (Thursday May 27th 7pm) Get ready to climb 19,341 feet to the Summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro – one of the famed Seven Summits – the roof of Africa. Based on his memoir, author, adventurer, and TV host (New England Legends on PBS) Jeff Belanger takes you on a breathtaking multimedia journey of Tanzania.
- Our Call for Covid Artwork for a show in September and October is being distributed. Our Gallery Committee is working on this initiative. Goal Two 2c

Building: The building was power washed last week to precede the painting and staining of the exterior of the library. Jason and I met and he agrees that we should go with the same dark green around the library trim. We can then put swatches of possible new colors for the arch over the door and see which we like. If anyone would like to weigh in, this will be the time! We’ll let you know when we are at that stage. We are still waiting for guidance from Fire Chief Jeff Yale on what we need to do in order to have the tent put up. Goal Two 1

Planning and Policy: Trustees will discuss the Materials Selection Policy. Goal Two 1g

Community Relations: Yankee Chronicle, a show on our local cable network YCN Communications filmed in the community room on April 22nd. I talked about library programming, what protective covid measures we have put into place and the new photography show that is up in our gallery. I met with Neal Cass and Paula Simpkins to discuss possible community wide approaches to accessing local meeting space. Goal Two 1k.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop