

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
September 21, 2021

Library Staff: I received no responses to the posting of our open part-time reference librarian position. I'm happy to report, however, that former staff member Emily Welsh stopped by to say that she had re-located back to Hopkinton and is interested in resuming her p/t reference position. We will be meeting soon to discuss details. Goal Two 1c.

Finance: With 33% of the year remaining at the end of August, we have used 60% of our budget, so we are on target. Our ten year capital improvement plan (CIP) budget proposal has been submitted and work on the proposed 2022 budget is in progress. We are waiting to hear from NH Humanities about our request (\$8,000) for one of their SHARP/ARPA grants to cover planning for the possible pavilion on library grounds to add space for public programming. We should hear in late September. Goal One 2bandc and Goal Two 1b.

Library Services: Curbside pickup has picked up and more people are visiting the library in person so business is booming. Our circulation numbers are up in all categories as compared to 2019 at this time, with the exception of AV, where numbers continue to dwindle. For the first time, ebook circulation is down by 2%. During the last month, study room usage has been steady.

The library table at the Farmers Market was a good addition during the summer—both as a vehicle to get the word out about library services and for the very popular “pop up” book sales. Thanks to Nancy for handling the table during July and Amy on one August Saturday. The Friends involvement was less than hoped. They are considering hosting the table once a month moving forward as a more “handleable” responsibility.

Policy questions of note are whether to add back hours until 8pm on Tuesday and Wednesday or to resume Sunday hours. We only received nine responses to our community survey soliciting local input on services and resources, which was available at the Farmers Market. Highlights of those

More Open hours: 3 votes (one for opening at 9am and one vote for Sundays)

Favorite Library Offerings:

Books: seven votes

Online resources: six votes

Visiting the library: five votes

We are going to distribute the survey to people visiting the library in the coming weeks. Goal One 1a Goal Two a-e.

Programs: Our programming plans for the Fall are thwarted somewhat because the tent blew down in a recent storm. We had been hoping to hold children's programs including Storytime under the tent and considered adult programming there as well. Putting the tent up again does not seem like a viable option since it had begun to sag considerably and it is unclear whether it was damaged in last week's wind event. Having a permanent outside pavilion would greatly enhance our options for safe programming. Upcoming:

- “Art on the Porch” Art Project for Children on the Library porch. Saturday October 2nd 10-2. A Currier Museum art teacher will be leading a “drop in” art project event on the porch as part of this annual community event.

- “Pop Up” Book Sale on the Library Lawn (also part of the Art on the Porch event) Saturday October 2nd 10-2. We will be using the library’s pop up tent and others provided by members of the Friends group. They will be running this event if they can get enough volunteers.
- Poetry Reading with L.R. Berger. Sunday October 17th 4pm. Local poet will read from her new book. L.R. and I are talking about a multi session poetry series, including possible segments e.g. “So, you think you don’t like poetry”, poetry writing workshop; introduction to the Poets Laureate etc. L.R. recently helped me to review our poetry collection, weeding out some volumes and rearranging/re-cataloging others.

With Foundation funds we have acquired a variety of seating and other materials recommended by NH Family Voices as part of our “Inclusivity Project” to provide improved experiences for children with special needs. The seating, weighted blankets, headphones etc. are designed for children who may have challenges participating in story time. Leigh is beginning to test out using them and is reaching out to families to let them know that we have these items.

Goal One 4a-b Goal Two 2c

Building: Summer damage to the door leading to the porch from the kitchen and to the screen door was repaired in September by Chi Hofe. He will also consult with us on adding a reading nook in the children’s area to accompany the mural being created by Barb Diaz.

Planning and Policy: Trustees will discuss the Unattended Child Policy. Goal Two 1l.

Community Relations: In August we provided a venue for the Boys and Girls Club of Hopkinton during a period when temperatures were high and the space at Maple Street was not conducive. While it was good to be able to assist a local organization, the weeks when club members were in the community room were a bit chaotic. We discussed the possibility of working together next summer under more controlled circumstances. I have been working with the new Student Services Director, Mandie Hibbard, on the re-establishment of the Family Support Committee. Leigh and I have also been working with Emily Squibb a counselor at Maple Street in providing materials for families on a variety of topics on “social-emotional learning.” Goal Two 2c.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop