

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

October 18, 2016

Staff: I am in the process of arranging fire department training for the staff on AED use and general fire safety.

Programs: Campaign Finance Reform 101 with League of Women Voters had twelve in attendance and the US Supreme Court Year in Review with our own John Greabe had 35 attendees. Our Hopkinton READS is the next program series on the horizon. See brochure.

Budget: With 25% of the year remaining, we have used 71% of our budget. I have completed the proposed 2017 budget (to be distributed at the meeting). We are looking at a 2.5% increase over last year. This is largely due to benefits costs as well as an increase in the part-time personnel line. We were over budget in this line last year because we did not include enough hours for maintenance work and other part-time staff hours. I am reviewing the p/t line and expect to be able to reduce it, with a goal of bringing our increase to 2%. Our fuel line is reduced substantially because we are down to \$2/gallon from \$2.50 last year.

Building: We had another sprinkler incident early in October. Our system flooded and alarmed at around midnight on October 1st, requiring me to rendezvous with our friends at the Fire Department. Hampshire Fire came out at 4am to drain the system and check for problems. Everything appears to be fine and the theory is that the fire in a nearby home on Pine Street caused such fluctuations in water pressure that the system flooded. Carpeting for the community room and tile for the bathrooms and kitchen will be installed during the first week of December. The community room is too busy during the next month and a half to accommodate the week the installation will take. I am looking into adding more shelving to the library to accommodate our expanding collection. I now have three bids for a new generator: HR Clough: \$9,740 Irish Electric: \$7,650; Yestramski: \$11,000. Darragh Madden from Irish Electric has come in to review our lighting and will be putting together a proposal for how we can retrofit our fixtures, taking advantage of some possible rebates from the state.

Strategic Plan: We had two successful focus groups on August 18th and September 22nd. For the most part, people are very positive and complimentary about the library's services. Nancy's summaries are very helpful. Many of the programs/projects that participants suggest are already being done by the library, suggesting that we are not successful enough "telling our story."

Community Relations: Our "Kearsarge Chronicle" spots with Leigh, Emilie and me are posted on our Facebook page and have brought in some very positive comments. I have met with Neal, Paula Simpkins from the Slusser Center and Greg Roberts, Buildings and Grounds about the parking and road around Houston Park. They are also interested in improving access to both of our buildings and the fields behind. It makes sense to try to coordinate, if possible, whatever steps we take to reconfigure the front of the library with town efforts. Our copy of "The Geology of NH" by C.H. Hitchcock is on display at the Currier Museum of Art for the "Mount Washington" show. The library is duly credited and we have received a complimentary copy of the catalog in which we are also credited.