

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
 September 10, 2019

Staff: Longtime reference librarian Charlotte DeBell retired at the end of August. We had a going away dinner at my house (with a surprise visit from Nancy Skarmeas!). For the moment we are going to try to make it work with only two part-time reference librarians, though this means that Karen and I need to work more weekends. This situation has helped me to focus on transition. Two of our circulation part-timers are over 70, and the third is contemplating relocation. Most of the rest of the staff are post sixty and I will be 64 in 2020. All staff report that they are happy, with no intention of leaving. Goal Two 1c 1k

Library Budget and Capital Improvement Plan: I am continuing to chart out what project components will be paid with donations to the foundation, from the Friends group, Primex, CIP funds and library funds, specifically our Money Market funds. We have almost spent out foundation and Friends funds. The proposed CIP budget is due to Neal this week and the 2020 budget is due on October 11th. Most of our CIP items are consistent with previous years (ongoing computer replacement, interior painting, A/C unit replacement and addition of improved access to front of library) One major project to undertaken in 2020 or 2021 is the staining of the exterior shingles and repainting trim. This could be \$40,000 or more. Our current CIP totals are:

- Library Technology Trust Fund \$22,210
- Library Facilities Maintenance Trust Fund: \$8,931
- Library Systems Replacement CRF: \$32,011.

The Select Board and Budget Committee did not accept the library's request for any additional payment into our CIP budgets in 2019, with the lightning strike as justification. They also reduced the maintenance line in our general operating budget. We will need to monitor the budgeting process closely in the coming budget year. Goal Two: 1b.

Programs: The Summer Reading Program (SRP) "Universe of Stories" was a success again this year, though our numbers continue to trend downward. Leigh's outreach to the summer program at St. Andrew's provides a good model of how we may be able to add literacy "value" to existing full day summer programs in addition to continuing our own SRP, which continues to fill a niche for some families. We are thinking of hosting a meeting of all of the area summer programs to share ideas early in Spring 2020.

SRP	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Registrants	171	179	207	228	151	173
Volunteers	25	29	27	15	17	12*
Books Read	1952	1857	4540*	2307	2552	1897
			*First Year of 1000 Bks Before K			*Deliberate plan to give fewer volunteers more hours

We have kicked off our new general programming season with some excellent offerings: A family concert with Mr. Aaron with over fifty out on the lawn; a felting workshop with seven participants; John Greabe's Scotus Talk and Susan Ware's Women's Suffrage Talk with 19 and 57 respectively. I am in the process of planning a program/author talk (on John Greabe's recommendation) by Leah Plunkett his colleague at UNH Law School, on sharing social media with children.

Inclusivity Program: In response to our summer incident with a family with a child with autism, we are beginning to roll out an "Inclusivity Initiative" working with NH Family Voices, a statewide organization working with people with disabilities and their families. The mom involved in the above incident has become a partner in our planning and it has

been a constructive partnership. Currently, the initiative includes the below elements. We have also been working closely with the school district on our planning.

- a. Focus group for families of kids with disabilities to be facilitated by NH Family Voices. Target families with kids on the spectrum. Key question "How can we better understand and serve your kids?" Scheduled for Thursday October 3rd at 6pm.
- b. Findings from the above to inform training for staff on how to better understand disabilities challenges, with a focus on autism spectrum disorders and how we can provide appropriate and sensitive service to each individual without compromising services for the many.
- c. Identify opportunities for community wide programs on the subjects above.
- d. Build our Parent Collection of materials on different learning styles, autism spectrum, parenting tips etc. Create bibliographies, advertise collection to district families, home schooling families, Contoocook School etc.
- e. Create a series of Sensory programs, purchase sensory appropriate toys/tools/games. Advertise.

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

Building: Shades have been installed on four windows, with good result. I am going to talk with Studio Sage (shade dealer) about some options on replacement shades for the community room. Four of the shades in that room are currently not functioning. The new ceiling cloud light should be delivered by the end of September. Some families have reported that they feel the children's area is smaller than it used to be. Some also miss the puppet theater as a cozy spot for reading or playing. In order to expand the reach of the children's area, we will be carpeting a portion of the craft room and will encourage families to play with toys in that area as well. We are investigating the construction (or purchase) of a small reading nook. Conversations with Judy Dibble on the mural for the children's area continue and should happen this fall.

Painting: I have requested bids for the painting of all exterior trim and the staining of the shingles from Gabbett Painting, Jeff Ackerman and Chris Wardell. We had not budgeted for the staining in the past, but the closer scrutiny of the exterior in the past year revealed that shingles are aging and buckling and need a new coat of clear stain for the longterm protection of the building. Funding for this project will go into the current CIP request with the painting to occur in 2020 or 2021.

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 and John Wuellenweber (Beaux Woods Construction) was here today with Jason LaCombe to review the project and will put in a bid. The availability of funding for the project depends upon what resources we have left after the insurance claim is complete. Some fundraising might be needed.

Planning and Policy: The Behavior Policy will be distributed for review at the September meeting.

Community Relations: I continue to be involved with the school district's Family Support Team, as well as a new group for families of kids with disabilities being run by the district. I hosted the Hillstown Library Cooperative last Friday, reviewing lessons learned from the post lightning strike period and touring the library. The Yankee Cable Network will be here again on Thursday to interview me about what we have been doing in the past year. I am exploring participation in the National Voter Registration Day program on September 24th and have materials to distribute. I will speak with the Supervisors of the Checklist about their possible role this week.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop