

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
January 18, 2022

Library Staff: It's staff review time so I am in the process of setting up times to sit down with each staff member to review the past year and look forward to the new year and set some goals. This means it's time for my review as well. Staff greatly appreciated the holiday gifts from the trustees. Goal Two 1c.

Finance: We are working with a tentative 2022 budget until Town Meeting in March. We finished 2021 expending more than 98% of our approved budget. The amount that remains is turned back to town. Goal One 2bandc and Goal Two 1b.

Library Services: Our circulation numbers continue to be up in adult categories as compared to 2021 at this time, including AV. Juvenile numbers continue to be down, with the exception of AV, largely because we are no longer doing "book bundles" for kids. Curbside continues to be busy and in library use is steady. Computer usage is definitely down from previous years. Goal One 1a Goal Two a-e.

Programs Eighteen people attended our Supreme Court in Review program with John Greabe. Participants requested that we have another discussion about SCOTUS in June. In addition, a reading list on SCOTUS and constitutional issues was assembled with John's assistance and is posted on our website. Local poet, L.R. Berger and I are meeting to plan additional poetry programming, the next to occur in February 2022 focusing on NH Poets Laureate. The Friends of the Library Winter Family Series is in full swing. We had a magician here in December with almost 60 in attendance, all masked. Next Friday we are hoping to have our rescheduled theremin concert. With Foundation funds we have just acquired a "Meeting Owl Pro", which has been highly recommended by other libraries as a tool for broadcasting and recording public programs to remote audiences. Staff is now learning how it works. Goal One 4a-b Goal Two 2c

Building: We are still waiting for proposals from Eastern Propane and Clough for the necessary upgrades to our propane tank to power the proposed generator. The Department of Public Works continues to be short staffed and I have been told that we may not have our walkways cleared until later in the day on snow days. Jason and I have met with Eric Buck from Terrain Inc about the proposed pavilion project. The site review has been completed by Brown Engineering and now plans are being drafted. The foundation continues to be committed to supporting this project both with its own funds and through fundraising. Goal Two 2a and e.

Planning and Policy: Trustees will revisit the "Unattended Child Policy," since staff raised some questions on implementation and messaging. The NH State Library has recommended that libraries regularly review their "Request for Reconsideration" policies and be sure that they include the reconsideration of programs as well. Across the country public and school libraries are having materials and programming challenged for alleged "divisive" content. Staff and trustees should be ready to hear challenges and respond. Goal Two 1l.

Community Relations: I am chairing the Hillstown Library Cooperative this year. In 2022 we have an excellent roster of professional development programming scheduled. In May I will be presenting a "Disaster Readiness" program at NHLTA. Partnership with the school district continues particularly around "social emotional learning" and family partnership. This week I am meeting with the new District Superintendent Michael Flynn for the first time. Goal Two 2c.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop