

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
March 22, 2022

Library Staff: The merit increase pool was approved at Town Meeting. In order to put those into place, "Personnel Action Forms" have been filled out that will need to be signed by the board chair. Note, that the increases are set to begin in April and are not retroactive. Goal Two 1c.

Finance: The 2022 budget was approved without comment at Town Meeting. 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, with the exception of JUV non-fiction. We counted 1,133 visitors in February, up from 868 in January. We eliminated our mask requirement in February, though many staff and visitors continue to opt to mask. Goal One 1a Goal Two a-e.

Programs. We made successful use of our new "Meeting Owl Pro" at the Ukraine program on March 10th. We had 21 people participating in person and more than 30 attending virtually. We had a few glitches, but overall it was a great success. We had good feedback about providing the virtual option. Upcoming programs include:

- Poetry Discussion "A Flock of NH Poets: Spotlight on Liz Ahl" with LR Berger (March 31st 6:30pm) RSVP
- Scrapbooking Workshop with Joy Malcolm (March 24th 6:30-8pm) RSVP Goal One 4a-b Goal Two 2c
- "Gardening in a Changing Climate" with a Master Gardener from UNH Cooperative Extension (April 5th or 7th 7pm)

National Library Week (NLW) extends from April 3 -9th. We will use the American Library Association's theme for this year "Libraries Connect" with our own twist "Libraries Connect and Grow" and use it to initiate our new seed sharing program. We have purchased seed at a reduced price from High Mowing and will be making it available starting on April 3rd. Staff member Cindy Garland is a master gardener and she is taking the project on, working with staff member Emily Welsh. The "Gardening in a Changing Climate" program is part of NLW. We will also be distributing a brief survey for library users, as we have done during NLW in the past.

Building: Eric Buck from Terrain Planning presented the preliminary plan for the outdoor pavilion on the library lawn at the March Foundation meeting. Foundation trustees liked the plan and are now waiting for cost estimates in order to project how much the foundation will commit to the project from their own funds and how much from fundraising. We also discussed the importance of messaging and presenting this project in the context of other local efforts (e.g. the barn project and Kimball Cabins pavilion) Goal Two 2a and e.

Planning and Policy: We are adapting the town's personnel policy for library purposes only. The staff procedural manual has been updated and will be reviewed at the March trustee meeting. This is a "living" document that is always subject to review/editing, but trustees should be aware that it exists. Goal Two 1l. Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop