

**LIBRARY BOARD MEETING NOTES
OCTOBER 28, 2021**

Opened at 4:05 PM

Present: Becky Ketchum, MaryAnn Anderson, Sallie Wilder, Gloria Nicholson, Marnie Bottesch, Richard LaBelle, Town Manager, and Robin Wilson, Librarian.

Meeting notes of September 23, 2021 accepted as written.

Of the ARPA \$3,000 grant, which must be spent by 12/31/2021, we have about \$2,500 left. Suggestions for usage: Audubon Backpacks, Read Along program materials for the walking trail, Lego sets for both adults and children, a good easel with paper, paints, brushes which should include disposable paper floor covering under easel – magazine subscriptions for take-home usage (crafts, cooking, children's, etc.) Board members will have suggestions at next meeting to sort through in light of purchase.

With the \$170,000 this year and the \$170,000 next year in ARPA funds, and continuing Covid, the Mercer Road Library would benefit with outdoor seating in a gazebo adjacent to the back door by the playing field. A rocking chair for the Sophie May Library for outdoor usage was another suggestion.

Through the ALA grant the Librarian will be attending multiple webinar training sessions which focus on encouraging library participation in the community. Robin's project is a book club; the grant will buy the books. Meeting frequency would be once a month. Noted: a good leader is important and perhaps hard to find. Announcement of the grant will be made in mid-November; Robin will work on the publicity for review at the next meeting.

Gloria said that Barbara Winslow is prepared to lead Story Time anytime and has several books.

The trustees agreed to partner with Waste Management RE: WM's proposed recycling project. The library will have a display /program related to the project and will also be a place where participants can pick up a bucket/information and get started.

Voted to get a new, small laser printer using ARPA funds, and voted to turn the computers around, so that the screens are facing outward. This will leave us with three computers, as one is out of order. Switching the computers around addresses the ongoing issue of inappropriate usage of the Internet and also opens up additional floor space.

The book drop, which is in disrepair, was discussed but no decision made in terms of a solution. (Post meeting update: TM will reach out to Public Works to see if repair/painting or re-wrapping can be done in-house at a reasonable price.)

MaryAnn is researching craft projects for Take and Make or in-library usage. She led a discussion on the idea of having the display books revolve around themes as well as the holidays, and the idea of a cleaner look using the principle of "less is better" for the displays.

There was a question on the use of the library by a supplier of essential oils. Supplier proposed holding a teaching session with products available after the classes. It was agreed that the library was not an appropriate place for these sessions.

Advertising remains a challenge for all programs. Flyers should be posted around town for all events. Additionally need to reinstate the "new books" bookmark that was used during Covid-curbside only era of service. Other suggestions for improving the library's reach to the public included: The Bridge, YouTube usage, Facebook, Town website, Norridgewock Neighborhood Watch, and town signs. The idea of YouTube was viewed very enthusiastically.

The trustees inquired about the Riverview Memorial School visits. Riverview planned to bring the students by regularly as part of their curriculum. However, they have not done so. Robin will contact them to follow-up, see what we might do to encourage their usage of the library.

Books to purchase:

- 9) STATE OF TERROR
- 12) THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY
- 15) FINAL MISSION THE NORTH WOODS
- 20) THE MAN WHO DIED TWICE
- 21B) WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN
- 22) ALL IS CALM
- 23) AN ELDERLY LADY MUST NOT BE CROSSED
- 26) BRONCO & FRIENDS
- 28) A NEW DAY
- 31) THE BOOK OF HOPE
- 40) THE SPEAKING STONE
- 43) TELEPHONE TALES
- 45) A TIME TO KILL

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- 10) SLOW FIRE BURNING
 - 13) SILVER VIEW
 - 46) CHAIN OF COMMAND
 - 47) THE JUDGES

The latter four books were added based on their popularity with patrons and the end of the year timing for both delivery and budgeting. It was also agreed to purchase the eight books Robin wanted to round out upcoming displays: the Christmas Pig, Kwanzaa from the Holiday to Everyday, Seven Spools of Thread, The Family Tree Tool Kit, The Return of the Light, The Winter Solstice: Sacred Traditions, Shmelf the Hanukkah Elf, and the Eight Knights of Hanukkah.

Becky is donating 48) OH WILLIAM

Meeting adjourned at 6:22PM
Submitted by Marnie Bottesch, secretary