Minutes from the Etna Library Trustee Meeting
August 28, 2024 at 5pm
Location: Etna Library, 130 Etna Road, Etna, NH 03750

In attendance:
Jeffrey Metzler-Library Director
Betsy Storrs-Trustee
Kathleen Chaimberg-Trustee
John Collier-Trustee and Secretary

Order of Business

Acceptance of July Minutes

Librarian's Report

July Patron Visits
- 1,027
- July: 809
- July, 2023: 673

July Programs
- Story Time (7): average of 4 attendees
- Knitting (2): average of 4 attendees
- Cookbook Club (1): 6
- Big Trees of Northern New England (1): 18
- Campfire Craft (1): 26
- Lindsay & Her Puppet Pals (1): 59
- Bug Safari (1): 25
- Stories with Scooter (1): 13
- Alyx the Magician (1): 120

July Circulation
- Items OWNED by Etna: 1,332
- June: 934
- July, 2023: 994

- Items CIRCULATED AT Etna: 1,291
- June: 916
- July, 2023: 1,013

July Website Visits
- 534 Site Sessions (431 in June)
- 409 Unique Visitors (293 in June)

July Donations
- 7 donors – total of $368 in memory of Reid Drucker

Summer Reading Programs
- Adult raffle slips – 68 (24 in 2023)
- Kids reading logs returned – 20 (18 in 2023)
- 75 attendees at Ice Cream Party

Old Business

Flooding concern; consideration of a basement sump pump-see discussion below

New bookcases
- Art Stacey, Dodd Stacey's brother building two bookcases – next to computer desk and under copier.

Gazebo-see discussion below

Second Addition
- John has been doing some legwork on this, which has been very helpful. See discussion below

Pests in Basement
- Animal droppings in crawl space between new and old basements. Stones pushed aside. Reset and patched up.

Seed Library

- 215 – seed packets taken last year
- 326 – seed packets taken this year

New Business

Kids/Adults Patron Visits

- July, 2023: 74% of visiting patrons were adults
- July, 2024: 62% of visiting patrons were adults

Activity Boards

- Use the wide side of the new bookcase in the picture book corner to hang up activity boards. Tyler from DPW making 3 interchangeable boards – magnets, LEGO baseplates, felt.

Window seat, toys, Featured Writer Bookcase

- Some new items at the library

After School Clubs

- All returning in September
- LEGO – every Monday at 3:30. Free pizza on the first gathering of each month
- Craft Club – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 3:30
- Universal Yums – 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4pm
- Stories with Scooter – 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4pm. (7 adults, 10 kids last Wednesday)
- Janinne Pizarro – Spanish/English Story Time?

Apple Cider Festival

- Saturday, October 19th at 11am
- Elliott Goodman – cider press
- Elizabeth Cornell?

Haunted Story Walk

- Weekend before Halloween – hang story signs with snippets of classic Halloween or ghost stories, poems, etc. Volunteers posted at some of the signs to read. Candy to hand out along the way. Hot chocolate or S'mores…

Upcoming programs

- One-Room Rural Schools, Wednesday, September 18 @5:30pm
- Hanover Fall-Fest, Friday, September 27, from 4-6pm (Close Library early, Sarah unavailable, Stephanie Snelling and her daughter Helah.
- Monday, October 7th at 5:30 – Laura Waterman, author, hiker, conservationist from Vermont.

Discussion:

Flooding:

The spring flooding of the basement led to the discussion of how to avoid future flooding or alert the dept of public works DPW of a flooding event led to the suggestion that we purchase a wireless alarm that would let Jeff know of water in the basement so he could alert DPW. John will look into the alarms and recommend one in the September meeting.

Gazebo

There is funding for the construction of a gazebo.
First consideration is whether a structure would be allowed in the area adjacent to the library. Conclusion is that there is no restriction in the conservation easement.

Second question is what it would be used for and how large it should be. Jeff suggested that it could be used for story times, arts and crafts, bug safari.

Consideration of the possible gazebo size:

For comparison: Library addition is 12'x24'

Jeff looked at a number of existing gazebos and concluded that:
12'x12' was too small
So maybe 12'x16' would be about right

Other issues of discussion of the gazebo:

Does it have screens? Preliminary conclusion was no.
How is it manned?
If open 24/7 how do we deal with misuse; garbage and such?
Should it be located near or away from the library; preliminary conclusion was to put it close so it could be easily accessed and the use could be monitored. If located across the parking lot it would be in a designated wetland.
One ideas was that could it be put on piers so it could possibly be located in the wetland across the parking lot?

Possible addition to the library

Jeff would like to have more room in the library which raised the question of how the existing addition was designed and what modification could be made. Recommendation was made to speak with Ryan Borkowski who can provide insight. John offered to set up a meeting with him to learn some history.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be Friday September 13th, 2024 at 5 pm.