

Etna Library Trustee Meeting Minutes September 6, 2022

Present: Kathleen Chaimberg, Elizabeth Cornell, Liz Marshall, Jeff Metzler

The July meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Librarian's Report: Having taken a traditional summer meeting hiatus, Jeff presented usage and circulation figures for both July and August. While July was impressively busier than June, August posted a record breaking 1002 items circulated and was accompanied by a similarly robust number of patron visits. In the spirit of embracing some newer measures of impact and engagement, our nascent standalone website is showing steadily increasing traffic.

Review of programs: While attendance at Story Time varied from week to week, the children's engagement remained constant under the spell of Jeff and summer stand-in Mary Ellen Rigby. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings of the adult book and knitting groups, an adult craft night was introduced with plans to explore more in the future. The big draw for both kids and their young at heart caregivers occurred on 8/1 with a visit from Alex the Magician enthralling over 80 local participants. The summer reading programs concluded with both adults and kids earning appropriate accolades and tangible rewards for participation.

Old Business

Buildings and grounds: Construction of the New Book display shelving is slated to begin in winter. The rhythmic tick tock of the antique clock has returned thanks to Ross Farnsworth.

Library Mission Statement: Reflecting current sensibilities and honoring tradition, our updated Mission Statement can be found on both the Etna library website and our printed brochure.

Bookmarks: Designed, printed, and laminated by Jeff, the first batch of fifty have been distributed. Future editions may be aided by help from our enthusiastic volunteers.

Looking ahead: The creation of a seed library as well as refurbishing our outdoor Story Walk in the bird sanctuary are two topics slated to be explored further in the coming year.

Library funding assets: Jeff is in conversation with Tina Stearns, Town of Hanover Director of Finance, to clarify the administration of revenue held within private trust funds established on behalf of the library.

New Business

Buildings and grounds: Undoubtedly channeling his inner HGTV personality, Jeff continues to update and enhance our beloved small space with recent additions of new accent lighting, greenery, a toy chest, and a photo of his (professional) ancestor-the first Etna librarian.

Upcoming programs: With a book's index being the print equivalent of Google, Michelle Guiliano plans to give us an insider's perspective on how these mini search engines are created on 9/29 at 7 pm (Note: this program was rescheduled from July). Other programs include film scholar Brian Rose on "The golden age of Hollywood" (9/15) and local author Michael Lajoie (10/13). Perennial favorites coming up include Pumpkin Decorating and The Pie Sale.

The Collection: Using data from usage patterns to inform space allocation, future purchases and collection development, Jeff has recently reorganized and updated both the adult and children's non-fiction sections. One noted area of growth being afforded increased prominence commiserate with interest is the Graphic Novel genre, now featured in the annex corridor display. The correct pronunciation of manga was briefly debated. Several magazines going out of print will make room for the addition of new titles of local interest. Following considered discussion, the trustees voted to continue to support local print journalism with a yearly paid subscription to the Valley News.

Howe Library partnership: Jeff will request that a link to our website be included when Howe updates their site. This will ensure that information specific to the Etna library, including hours of operation, is current and up to date. Etna library bookmarks (see above) with the URL for our website may be placed for informational purposes in the increasing number of Etna collection items being checked out by Howe patrons.

Computer use policy: In keeping with our mission to provide free access to uncensored information, the trustees voted to forgo the installation of filtering software on library computers.

The next meeting of the trustees will be October 14 at 4 pm.