Minutes of the Etna Library Trustees; November 15, 2024

Present:
Betsy Storrs-trustee
Kathleen Chaimberg-trustee
John Collier-trustee and secretary
Jeffrey Metzler-Library Director

Librarian's Report

October Patron Visits
- 1,141
- September: 787
- October, 2024: 809

October Programs
- Arts & Crafts: met 2 times, average of 15 attendees at each gathering
- LEGO Club: met 4 times, average of 21 attendees at each gathering
- Story Times: met 9 times, average of 2 attendees at each gathering
- Knitting: met 2 times, average of 4 attendees at each gathering
- Book Group: 8
- Cookbook Club: 7
- Universal Yums: 7
- Stories with Scooter: 2
- Apple Cider Festival: 106
- Haunted Story Walk: 103
- Halloween Costume Swap: gave out around 23 costumes
- Pumpkin Decorating: gave out 120 pumpkins and decorating kits

October Circulation
- Items OWNED by Etna: 1,377
- September: 1,204
- October, 2023: 1,104

- Items CIRCULATED AT Etna: 1,307
- September: 1,067
- October, 2023: 1,065

October Website Visits
- Site sessions: 480 (438 in September)
- Unique visitors: 345 (321 in September)

October Donations
- NH Humanities: $300

- Head Light Fund: $2,500

The primary focus of this trustees session was a meeting that Jeff had on Thursday, November 14th with Rob Houseman and Ellen to discuss the Etna Library budget. In the meeting, Rob brought up the idea that perhaps the Etna library should be brought under the Howe to reduce costs.

A long discussion ensued.
Kathleen recalled her experience with the history of the Howe/Etna library relationship and that a similar idea had been floated before but discarded.

The discussion led to the suggestion that John would look into whether there was true interest in this concept by either the Howe board or the Selectmen and that Jeff would research more of the history.

The board agreed that keeping Etna Library as a separate entity was critical and that there is no interest in altering the current Etna/Howe relationship.

Jeff led a discussion of salaries and proposed that his position moves up to $85k/yr; His position is now a grade 20; he will request an upgrade to grade 23; other heads of the Hanover departments are at grade 24.

The board agreed that it is easy to justify the salary based on what other folks are being paid. Jeff has lots of data supporting librarian salaries.

The board discussed each line of the proposed 2024-2025 budget and made some suggestions on wording and formatting and agreed to the amounts for each category of the proposed budget.

Action items:
Jeff to edit the proposed budget and send to the appropriate authorities.
John to look into whether there is interest on the part of Howe or Hanover to reconsider the relationship of Howe/Etna libraries.

Other New Business

New bookcases & Activity Boards

- Art Stacy, brother of Etna resident Dodd Stacy, was hired to craft a bookcase and a copier stand (that doubles as a small bookcase) for the library. He did an amazing job, and the new pieces are now in place, books already at home within them.
- Tyler Nelson from the Department of Public Works did a fantastic job crafting three Activity Boards for the library, to place alternatingly on a spot at the end of a bookcase.

There is a Magnet board, LEGO board, and Felt Piece board. The Magnet board has been up for a few weeks, and kids are greatly enjoying it.

Saturday Volunteers

- We need to look at the library's long-running practice of having volunteers staff the library on Saturdays and make sure that we are following labor laws.

Upcoming programs

- Pie Sale on 11-27
- Return of the Stuffie Sleepover on 12-18

December Trustee Meeting Date/Time

- Possibilities (all at 5pm): Monday, December 9; Wednesday, December 11; Friday, December 13; Monday, December 16; Friday, December 20