

Etna Library Trustee Meeting Minutes April 21, 2023

Present: Kathleen Chaimberg, Elizabeth Cornell (back IRL), Liz Marshall, Jeff Metzler

The March meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Librarian's Report: Following a slight dip in February, circulation numbers rebounded in true mud season in like a lion fashion breaking the 1000 mark for both collection metrics. Notably, both in person and website patron visits were also substantially increased; online visits saw the biggest gain at three times over last month's site sessions.

Review of programs: StoryTime sessions continue to be stubbornly resistant to prediction, ranging from zero to 10 attendees, while the Etna adult communal readers needed all available seating to accommodate their assemblage of 14. Characteristically, the knitters remained a steadfast group of 8. Demonstrating the power of local interest to drive engagement, the discussion of Pauper Auction, a novel about rural NH after the Revolutionary War, drew more than twice the number of attendees than best selling author Hank Phillippi Ryan's recently released thriller.

Donations: The Etna community continued to show their love and support of the library, with \$525 donated in four separate bequests.

Old Business

State Library report: An accounting of collection statistics and patron visits due on April 28 has been completed and submitted.

Seed library: Just recently open for business, the seed library has already proven a success with 83 packets dispersed thus far and many newcomers to the library specifically seeking it out.

New trustee: As the only candidate on the ballot, we expect to welcome Betsy Storrs as our new trustee following the vote at Town Meeting in May.

Buildings and Grounds: Much to the delight of its biggest fan, young patron Timothy, the antique clock has returned and is now in fine working order. Following a temporary work disruption involving an errant staple gun, the new and improved StoryWalk installation is complete. Our cozy nook armchair purchase awaits allocation of funding approval.

New Business

Upcoming programs: On Saturday morning 4/29 Susie Spikol will present a family friendly program on How To Be An Animal Adventurer! Jen Cullerton Johnson, a former StoryWalk featured author, will hold an adult creative writing workshop on 5/17 at 630pm via Zoom. On 5/23 at Trumbull Hall our seed library will go on tour as we welcome local farm owner Sarah Herr of Mink Meadow Farm for a presentation followed by a Q and A session about vegetable gardening in New England.

Kids books reorganization: In keeping with Jeff's data driven approach to the collection, the Juvenile Fiction holdings have been culled to make room for the expansion of Graphic Novels and Picture Books.

Library hours: A discussion was held regarding a proposed restructuring of library hours which would result in more consistency throughout the weekdays with an additional three hours of open time. Saturday hours would perhaps be decreased, although this may be mitigated by increased utilization of our enthusiastic volunteers.

Buildings and Grounds: Jeff and Sarah are slated to tackle a much needed basement cleaning and clearing project starting next week. The outdoor seating area established as an internet hub and refuge during the pandemic is in need of a new table umbrella.

Summer reading program: This year's theme is All Together Now and will commence on June 16. McCartney would be proud. The Hanover Coop has generously donated gift cards for adult participation. Reading goals for both breadth and depth will help guide kids' engagement.

The next meeting of the trustees will be Tuesday May 2 at 1600.