

Etna Library Trustee Meeting Minutes November 8, 2022

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

The October meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Librarian's Report: What started out as a slow month finished with a flurry of activity with over 100 more patron visits compared to October 2021. Items circulated were also above last year's numbers. As a sure sign of our expanding Etna library lovers community, there were 175 unique visitors to our website, 5 of whom hail from the British Commonwealth!

Review of programs: October StoryTime sessions saw variable attendance ranging from none to 11 eager readers to be. Eleven was also the lucky number for the knitting group's gathering; while 10 book group enthusiasts participated (virtually) with the Etna club and (in person) for the Stevens Rd. meeting. Pumpkin decorating proved to be a very popular event bringing new patrons to the library and increasing engagement, with almost half of the participants sending back photos of their creations (proudly posted on our site).

Old Business

Thanksgiving pie sale: The annual fundraiser and all-around crowd pleaser is on track for Wednesday, Nov 23rd. Shout out to Elizabeth Tobiasson for her iconic sign making.

NELA conference: Attending his first in person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic, Jeff characterized the Manchester gathering as welcoming and focused on diversity and inclusion. The keynote address given by Chris Bohjalian discussed some of the politically charged challenges public libraries are currently facing including censorship.

Building and grounds: The homemade (and awesome looking) I Spy case has been installed next to a collection of books after which it was named. Young patrons are encouraged to engage with a checklist of "spied" items that can be exchanged for a small prize when completed. The winter home of the garden table and chairs will be the front porch.

New Business

Upcoming programs: Andrew Cushing, a NH native with a master's in Historic Preservation, will provide some expert advice on how to conduct research on your old home, November 15 at 630pm on Zoom. The following day, from 330 to 530pm, Sarah will be hosting an adult craft session to construct community paper for a future collage project. On December 7 the Nashua Public library will virtually host LGBTQ activist, historian and NYT best-selling author Eric Cervini discussing the fight for gay rights in the US.

Buildings and grounds: In a wonderfully apt turn of events, a newly adopted bookcase formerly in use at the Hanover Police station has now been repurposed to display mystery fiction. Charlie Dennis, chief of said Police Department, will partner with Jeff to conduct a security assessment of the library premises. Further discussion will await their report. Photos of the library, both new and historic, have been printed on banners which now adorn the front and side entrances.

Vacation staffing: Sarah Molesworth will provide full time coverage while Jeff takes a well deserved vacation Christmas week.

The next meeting of the trustees will be December 6 at 4 pm.

