

Exeter Public Library Trustees Minutes March 15, 2016

Present: L. Haslam, M. LaFreniere, R. Lent, D. Leonard, M. McEntee, P. Sears, B. Young, L. Wilson, H. Godino

Absent: D. Moore

Call to Order: 6:30 pm. Mary welcomed the two new board members, Leslie Haslam and Martha McEntee. The slate of officers was offered, voted on and accepted: Chair: Mary LaFreniere, Vice Chair: Barbara Young, Secretary, Lisa Wilson, Treasurer, Denise Leonard.

Public Comment: Kim Canfield, a resident, discussed her ideas for making the Children's Room an inviting place. Public comment was closed.

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted.

Correspondence: -0-

Discussion:

- Hope gave out a comparison of library statistics for Exeter and other libraries of the same size in our area. Exeter has by far more programs, more attendance, and more picture books than any other area library.
- The picture books in the Children's Room are arranged in alpha order using the author's first letter of his/her last name. ie: All author's whose last name begins with A are placed in the A section. They are not alphabetized exactly within a letter because we consider our library a children's browsing library; children are encouraged to take out and look at as many books as they want. The Children's Library picture book section is set up for children to use and not necessarily for adults. The children's chapter books, biographies and nonfiction are in strict alpha order. This is how most libraries set up their Children's Room.
- The Children's Room is chock full; there is no room for any more displays, book cases, furniture etc. It has always been very colorful and set up for children to use. The displays and toys are changed periodically to keep the room interesting.
- The Children's Room has three exit doors; it is very easy for a child to walk out or be taken out against his/her will. We ask parents/guardians, for the safety of the child, to keep a close eye on your children. This is a public building and, as such, is a gathering spot for the public. Exeter is a large town with a varied population. We all still remember the disappearance of 8 year old Tammy Belanger in 1984.
- The library has 2 very small bulletin boards. We use them mostly to advertise library programs. There is some room for town and area happenings and we reserve the right to decide what to put up in that space. We have all seen the overflowing bulletin boards at other libraries and grocery stores that have

brochures on top of brochures on top of brochures and in no order. No one seems to take care of them and so there are always events that are way out of date.

- We do have certain rules here at the library to allow for safety and the smooth running of the library. All businesses, schools, families etc have rules. Here at the library our goal is to help patrons out in any way we can. We are constantly looking at how we can serve the patrons better and our rules change as needed. The staff tries very hard to accommodate all patrons.
- After discussions with a few patrons we have added Family Story Times to our Children's Room schedule. These are for all ages along with an adult. We will still have our regular story times for ages three and older. Each week in the Children's Room we have 2 Family Story Times, 3 Story Times for ages 3 and older, and 4 Drop-In Arts and Crafts periods. Each month we have 6 ongoing Book Groups for school aged children.
- Patrons love this Library enough to write many letters of appreciation.

Director's Report

On March 16, the Morning Book Group will discuss *Nine Parts of Desire*. The Evening Book Group discussed *The Invention of Wings*.

On Tuesday March 29 John Bunker will provide an overview of the lessons he learned from his travels to Glacier National Park including suggestions for lodging, hiking, and exploring the park.

Join us on Tuesday April 12 for An Afternoon of Music with Two Old Friends, Emery Hutchins and John Prendergast. They will sing and play a variety of instruments.

AARP will be here every Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm from February 1 to April 18th to offer free tax help to low and moderate income tax payers, especially those 60 years of age or older.

Children's Book Groups meet the second and third Saturday of the month. Sign-up is necessary for book discussion groups. The Children's Room provides all books. These are over for the year but will begin again in the fall. Book and Art is an introductory book discussion group for children aged six. The Book Bunch is a discussion group for children aged seven. Dewey's book *Buds* is a discussion group for children aged eight. The Page Turners is a book discussion group for ages nine and ten.

Beginning in March the Children's Room will offer a Family Story Time for all ages on Mondays and Tuesdays at 10 am. It will be a drop-in story and no sign-up is required. On Tuesday, March 22 at 10 am, Stephanie Hurd, community coordinator of the NH Association for the Blind will present a special Braille family story time with an intergenerational blindfold coloring activity.

The Preschool Story Times will be on Tuesdays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 10 am and 2 pm, and Thursdays at 10 am. The Drop In Arts & Crafts will be offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons.

On Saturday, March 12, the sixth grade book group discussed Hoot. The seventh/eighth grade group discussed Stargirl. These were the last book groups for this season. We will resume in the fall. Two teens entering ninth grade next fall expressed an interest in an older group. We would like to revive the older teen book group. Suggestions for Teen Summer Reading activities were briefly discussed and kids were encouraged to take part in the Teen Summer Reading Program.

We are having a fundraiser, Noche Mexicana, hosted by Margaritas Mexican Restaurant on Thursday April 14 all day. 20% of your food tab will be donated to the library.

We present book talks at local senior facilities, including 277 Water Street, Riverwoods and the Boulders.

Don't forget our Movie Matinee on the first or second Monday of the month at 1 pm. The next movie will be April 4.

If you wish to receive our e-mail newsletter, please sign-up at the adult services desk.

All library programs are free and open to the public

Operating Statement: The final 2015 Operating Statement was looked at and accepted. The Building Maintenance line was larger than expected because the water damage from ice and snow. The next statement was for this year, March 16. It is the real Operating Statement and Hope said everything looks good for this time of year. The Trustees accepted this statement.

Building, Grounds and Technology: Hope is looking at repairing the ramp. It looks like the cement is crumbling but it is completely safe as it is reinforced with rebar. It still looks bad though.

Finance & Fundraising: The Annual Appeal has brought in \$14,695 so far this year. This is up from last year.

Long Range Plan: -0-

Personnel & Policy: -0-

Continuing Business: The initial Friends meeting had to be canceled due to the weather. Robin will look at a new date, possibly March 31 or April 1.

New Business: -0-

Next Meeting: April 19, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned 7:43 pm

Pam Darlington