

Hopkinton Town Library
REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR
February 21, 2023

Library Staff: Staff reviews are almost complete and as ever, it is a productive process. Children’s Librarian Jenny will be in Australia for a couple of weeks in March. Our part-time reference librarian, Caroline, does storytime in her library in Chichester, so she is going to fill in on a couple of days. Goal Two 1c.

Finance: The town audit has begun and I have provided all of the backup (bank statements, treasurer’s reports, minutes etc.) for the library. So far, no questions. We are operating without an approved budget until Town Meeting on Saturday March 18th. Goal One 2bandc and Goal Two 1b.

Library Services: Overall circulation was up by 11% in January in adult and children’s categories. We had a 43% increase in new library cards (20 new cards) and room usage (100 vs. 57 in 2022) and library visits (1,299 versus 868 in 2022) were both up considerably. Goal One 1a 4a Goal Two 2a-e.

Programs.

In January and early February we had a variety of programming in addition to our regular offerings for kids and families (Family storytime, craft and STEAM programs and “Read to Zeke” our therapy dog). The most exciting addition to our roster of programs is our new monthly ukelele program led by local resident Ric Waldman. The foundation has underwritten the purchase of three beginner ukeleles, which participants can use at the “meet ups” or borrow. Ric is also running two ukelele programs for young people during school vacation.

PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS
Winter Art Show Opening	30
Contookuleles (Ukelele Meet-up) Feb 2nd	22
Beginner Ukelele Feb 15th	9
Compassionate Listening Program	12
Book Discussion “Hamnet” with NH Humanities facilitator	15
Poetry Conversation with LR Berger Feb 16th	16

Upcoming programs include:

- Puzzle Swap February 28th and Craft Swap March 3rd
- Mini Booksale with Friends of the Library Friday March 3rd and Saturday March 4th
- Contookuleles (First Wednesday of every month from 6-8) All welcome.
- “Cookies with Cass” (March 7th 3:30) Q and A on upcoming town meeting
- Poetry Conversation with LR Berger (March 16th 6:30)

Goal One 4a-b Goal Two 2c

Building. The proposed patio project is moving forward. Keim Landscaping has submitted a contract to undertake the patio off the community room, with the estimated total of \$132,000. A \$44,000 downpayment is required in order to begin the work. The trustees should discuss the most appropriate payment plan. On February 13th Jason and I made a brief presentation to the select board about the proposed patio project and it was unanimously approved.

During the cold snap in early February, an actuator on our AHU failed, resulting in a very cold weekend at the library and several emergency calls. We had a minor flood in the storeroom when one of the techs pierced a hold in a heating pipe. Everything now has been fixed. We are in discussion about how we are going to be charged for the work. Goal Two 2a and e.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunlop

