



### **February Activities and Programming:**

On February 9 twenty-one people attended the presentation on the book *Lost Towns* by Elena Palladino. A new knitting group started on February 18, with two knitters. Twelve people met on February 22 with Mathilde Duffy to learn drawing techniques for colored pencils. Storyteller Eshu Bumpus delighted a group of 16 children and adults on February 25. The Book Group met on February 28 to discuss *The Blank Slate* by Steven Pinker. The Friends of the Library met on February 18 and discussed the May Festival and March wine tasting.

On February 1, two classes of 6<sup>th</sup> graders (about 40 kids) came to the library to register for library cards and take out books on specific research topics. Although we were not given a lot of notice, the children were well behaved and were able to find books related to their topics. Brianna's Tuesday Storytime has really been taking off! She has been averaging 10 children and 7 adults each week. Community Connections had 3 programs with a total of 28 kids and 24 adults.

Finally, I have been working to clean up projects (and my messy office) in preparation for Amy Vessella's arrival as the new Library Director. Depending on her schedule, I plan to come to the library for a few hours each day until she is comfortable with procedures.

Coming events:

**Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00**—Jeff Snow, *The Softer Side of Celtic*

**Wednesday, March 15, 6:00** —Seed-Starting with Roberta McQuaid

**Thursday, March 23, 6:00**—Friends' wine tasting at Agronomy in Oakham. All are welcome, with a limit of 20 people.

### **Building Maintenance:**

I submitted a new Memorandum of Understanding to CW MARS to extend our PC Desktop Monitoring agreement for 2023.

The light fixture in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom has had the ballast replaced. I am also hoping to schedule the next phase in a total cannister light replacement/upgrade to LED project in the Children's Library, starting with the circulation area. Troy Brown will provide a quote for the other lights.

The fire alarm system alert is still sending alerts every night. Troy Brown thinks the problem may be with the batteries; he'll look at them to determine their age. Citizen Security will be calling on 2/28 to review issues we're having with the alerts and the display on the alarm panel. If necessary, we may need to request that a technician come out.

Jeff Samuelson has been over twice, including once with his lift to look at the tower. He is very interested in helping us find and repair the leak, but cannot see where the problem is yet. I told him that we would contact him the next time there is a storm that causes the leak...

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Thistle

PS: Thank you all for being such a kind and supportive Board of Library Trustees. It has truly been a pleasure to work with you all and to know that you have been there to back me up whenever needed. Many of my librarian colleagues would LOVE to have such a wonderful Board. I will miss you all.

**Possible ARPA expenditures for Haston Library**

5 Mobile Beacon Hotspots via TechSoup\*

5 hotspots @ \$15	\$ 75
5 internet service @\$120/yr	600
5 S&H @ \$9	<u>45</u>
SUB-TOTAL:	\$720

Alen BreatheSmart Classic True HEPA Air Purifier (for Lower Level and Children’s Room)

2 Air Purifiers @ \$549	\$1,098
2 BF35 HEPA Pure filters @ \$79	<u>158</u>
SUB-TOTAL:	\$1,256

Meeting OWL 3 (for meetings with remote attendees)--360° camera, mic, and speaker\*

OWL 3	\$1,049
Expansion mic	<u>249</u>
SUB-TOTAL:	\$1,298

Conference Room Monitor (for projecting meetings/programs)

Monitor	\$ 700-\$1,200
Wall mount	<u>27- 150</u>
SUB-TOTAL:	\$ 727-\$1,350

TOTAL: \$4,001-\$4,624

\*These items have been purchased; ARPA would reimburse the library budget if approved.

**Old Business:**

- Do we need to have a contract for Amy to sign? Peg will check with MBLC to see if it’s a requirement. A contract is mentioned in our by-laws. Other than school employees, most town employees do not sign contracts.
- The Director’s salary “bump up” has been approved by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee and is on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting of March 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Peg applauded Dawn’s completion of “Preserving Our Memories”, NB residents’ reflections on the pandemic. Links are included in the March 2023 library newsletter. The library’s youtube channel can also be accessed by searching: “north brookfield haston library youtube channel”.

**New Business:**

- Peg gave Amy a copy of the Social Media policy with cover sheet to sign acknowledging receipt of the policy.
- Ellen gave an update on the May Festival (Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00—2:00). Email invitations will be sent out this week to all who participated last year. The Friends of the Town House, NB Cultural Council, and NB Fire Department will be participating.
- Regular monthly trustees’ meetings will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, and June 5<sup>th</sup> with no meetings scheduled for July and August.
- Peg will investigate Open Meeting Law changes as of April 1st.

**Adjourned:** 7:08 pm

**NEXT MEETING: 3 April 2023 at 6:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Smith, Secretary