

Library Director's Report April 2017

Building and Grounds

The biggest news related to buildings & grounds for the Library is the announcement that Facilities Director Greg Marles will be leaving his job here at the end of May for another position in New Hampshire. Greg was instrumental in the successful Library building project, along with addressing ongoing maintenance and other issues that have come up in the new building.

Greg is working hard to wrap up many of the outstanding projects we have before he departs.

The Children's Garden work is lining up nicely. Contractor bids were opened Tuesday, May 9, with the winning bid going to Specialized Stormwater Solutions. Greg is working on filing a change by reference with the Maine DEP for the added impervious surface, along with the necessary changes to the Planning Board for the site plan adjustments. Assuming all permitting and approvals go as planned, work should begin in early July.

A site has been selected for the sculpture. It will be located in front of the library, in the grassy area between the handicapped parking and the brick patio. The installation of the sculpture base is being included in the Children's Garden project.

Greg hopes to have the remaining items -- roof garden expansion, lobby sound treatment, and Scott Dyer entrance adjustments -- lined up before his departure.

We have selected three display tables to add to the Library from Huston and Company, a long rectangular one and two circle tables. The rectangular table will go at the top of the stairs along the railing. One of the circle tables will go near the adult computers and the second near the teen computers. I will be requesting funding to purchase the tables from the Library Foundation at their May 24 meeting. All of us are very excited about the tables, it will allow us to display and market many more of our items. The custom nature of the furniture will ensure that it blends in with the existing pieces. I am hopeful the Library Foundation will support this request.

We continue to explore the possibility of adding pollinator/native plant gardens to the Library grounds. I've reached out to the Maine Extension System to see if they would have someone that could lend some expertise to our planning and implementation. I will also be reaching out to the Town Planner to check if any site plan adjustments are needed.

Staffing

Rachel Davis presented a talk at Reading Roundup (an annual State Library meeting focused on youth literature and programming) on her Baby Doll Storytime program. This is a storytime that Rachel developed herself. Part of her presentation included video shot by a high school student, which he edited using our video editing equipment. It's very exciting that we have staff developing unique programs to share with other libraries.

As we prepare to post our new Young Adult Librarian position, we have gone ahead and shifted Teen programming and collection development to the Youth Department staff. This allows our Adult Service Librarian to focus completely on that role and begins the transition of Teen services to the Youth Department. The change has been very successful.

Once the Town Council approves the budget at their meeting on May 15, I hope to be able to post our two vacant positions.

Summer Events

I have secured a table at Family Fun Day (June 17) and Rachel is working on getting us a space at Strawberry Festival (June 24). Youth Department staff are developing a simple craft for children to do and I am reworking some of our promotional material for the events. We will just need some additional volunteers to assist us during the day at each event.

Planning for our summer reading program is going well. We will be using a game board where participants will travel from one Cape Elizabeth landmark to another. The board will be similar for kids, teens, and adults but with the activities different for each age group. Prizes will also be different for each age group.

We are also planning our outdoor summer concert series, which I will be asking the Library Foundation to fund. We are looking to have four concerts.