



Fiske Free Library
108 Broad Street
Claremont, New Hampshire 03743
Ph: (603) 542-7017
Fax: (603) 542-7029
Email: mgrace@claremontnh.com
www.claremontnh.com

Trustee Meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Henry Normandin, Pat Leahy, Cynthia Densmore, Lauren Simpson, Marty Davis. Also present Director, Michael Grace and Secretary, Marta Smith.

Secretary's Report

The report was read and Cynthia Densmore moved to accept it as written, seconded by Pat Leahy and passed.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Lauren Simpson and Michael Grace. Henry Normandin made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Cynthia Densmore and passed.

Old Business

- City Website-Michael said that it was still under construction and the final bugs were being worked out. No date for completion has been set.
- Periodicals- no further action was taken at this time
- Art in the library-Marty Davis explained the mission of the OPUS group-which is a group formed to promote the arts in the community, and they are working with local artists to get them to donate pieces of their work to various places in the community. It will most likely be in the fall before we have anything on display at the library.
- Landscape maintenance-Marty Davis asked what was being done about Landscaping this year. Michael Grace recommended that the trustees take money from their savings or checking account to hire Judy DePonceau. The last quote from her was a little under \$2,000.00. Marty Davis said that he was not in favor of spending the money, other board members were in favor of it, but wanted a new quote for this year. Michael Grace said that he would get a new quote from her for the next meeting.
- Public Relations- Marty Davis asked what was needed for public relations to promote the library- other than just getting information out about programs there is not any great need for public relations. Each of the trustees agreed to take program flyers and distribute them before events.
- Retreat-It was decided that in lieu of a retreat at this time, there would be an annual December meeting with only the trustees.

New Business

- New Website- Marty Davis asked about the library having and maintaining its own website, but Michael Grace said that we are not allowed to maintain our own website it is all filtered through the company hired by the city.
- Promoting library through the school-Marty Davis asked if we ever worked with the schools on programs or at least promoted our programs through the schools and Michael Grace said that we haven't had much success coordinating with the schools. The library used to visit the individual schools to promote the Summer Reading Program, but over the last few years the schools have discouraged this because they say they don't have the time for it.

- Book giveaway- There was a discussion about a children's book give away as a way to get books into the hands of children who might not have them at home. Some of the suggestions were to give them away at one of the parades, giving a welcome kit to new mothers, ask for donations at Christmas time or possibly handing them out when the child gets a new library card. Pat Leahy asked if publishers ever gave away "remainder" books and Marty Davis asked if there was grant money available. Michael Grace and Marta Smith will discuss possibilities and come back with information for the next meeting.
- Farmer's Market- Lauren Simpson asked about the trustees having a booth at the Farmer's Market, maybe not every week, but as often as possible. She was thinking of possibly having a craft or some other interactive activity for kids to do while their parents are shopping at the farmer's market. She will come back with a more concrete plan for the next meeting.

City Librarian's Report

Unpredictable weather in March contributed to lower than usual library traffic. Checkouts for March totaled well below average at 8,600 for the month. Computer usage continued to be strong with patrons using 940 computer sessions for a total of 630 hours of compute time during the month. 135 items were loaned to other libraries through interlibrary loan and 496 new items were added to the collection. During the month 33 new patrons signed up for library cards. Over 5,000 people visited the library during March for an average of 236 per day.

Children's programs continued in March with Pre-School Story Time on Mondays and Toddler Activity Time on Tuesdays. Planning is nearly completed for this year's Summer Reading Program. The theme this year is "Dig into Reading." Favorite performers Steve Blunt, Simon Brooks, and Rick Goldin will be returning this year along with some new faces.

On March 21st the library hosted New Hampshire author Guntis Goncarovs who presented an interesting program centered on his new book: *Havana's Secret*. On April 18th at 7:00 pm the library will welcome Kevin Gardner, an expert on New England's stone walls. Additional programs planned for spring include programs on Cellar holes; stalking the wild moose and the politics of foods and farming.

The library recently acquired a new telescope purchased by the Friends of the library from the New Hampshire Astronomical Society, who also built the telescope. Their mission is to put telescopes in every library in the state to make astronomy programs more accessible to everyone. Stay tuned for future programs focused on the stars and planets! On a final note-the Friends of the Fiske Free Library fundraising letters went out this week.

Henry Normandin made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lauren Simpson- he meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 6 pm.