



**Report presented to the Board of Trustees
by Margaret Morrissey, Director
March 28, 2023**

Budget

Meeting with Interim Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Executive Assistant to the Town Manager 3/16 and budget request of \$574,884.00 presented.

Building

- DPW assisted with access to the Bustracker to resume internet connection. Also hung a framed photograph
- Bay Path Instructor Justin Verham and electrical department students visited the library to review some small electrical projects 3/9. They are able to perform the work requested and a letter has been sent to the School Committee to formally request the project be assigned.
- DPW installed a new driver and tube light in the YA light fixture and replaced the bulb in the parking lot light 3/9.
- Request for proposals sent to three vendors to have the two mahogany signs refurbished. Globe Signs presented the lowest bid \$3,000 and plan on starting the project 3/31
- Norel Services conducted the semi annual check of the fire system. There were some items that need correction and the team will return 4/5 to correct the deficiencies
- Sought the assistance of the Health Department Director regarding a patron, having received some complaints from patrons 3/15.

Collection Development

- A 35 mm film was found in the Holmes Ammidown History Room and Archive in a can with a brief note indicating it was of Sacred Heart Church. On further investigation by Councillor Mike Marketti and Paul Zotos, it was a professional movie "Exclusive Pictures Taken for the Strand Theatre by Central Motion Picture Co. C.L. Raimondo Photographer". The film was thought to be in poor condition and it was vacuumed and is not deteriorated.
- The weeding in the Teen fiction and Adult nonfiction continues
- Publishers Weekly reports that ALA has recorded a challenges of 2,571 unique titles "a stunning 38% increase from the 1,858 unique titles targeted for censorship in 2021". Article shared with the board by email. The figure was 377 challenges in 2019.

FOJEL

Sponsored the Library Legislative Day bus fare for the library director to participate in the State House event 3/15

- Preparing for the annual book sale May 4-6.

Gifts and Donations

- Janet Boyden donated some genealogy albums of the Verna Tieri family and a framed photograph of her father. The material has been added to the Italian American archive.
- Miami Foundation Donor Advised Fund (Suzanne Delahanty) \$500
- Southbridge Woman's Club \$100

Outreach

- Jessi attended Southbridge Academy's Community Resource Fair 3/23 from 5 pm to 6 pm and engaged with 26 parents and students.
- Margaret presented an overview of the library and services to the
 - Southbridge Rotary Club on 3/1 at their lunchtime gathering.
 - Southbridge Woman's Club on 3/24 at 12 pm – 2 pm
- QCC's President Luis Pedraja has been in discussion with the Economic Development Department to source space in the downtown that would provide visibility for the college in the community. It is also hoped to have some space, on the lines of a Community Commons which is a feature of most academic institutions. Mark Caron of Economic Development and Geraldo Maldonado, QCC Site Coordinator toured JEL on 3/22. The space on the mezzanine that was formerly used as a PC Workstation and has been identified as of interest. I indicated the Board of Trustees and the Town Manager would have to approve.
- The library hosted a COVID and Flu Vaccination clinic, 3/9 in the Pioppi Room, organized through the Department of Health, the Health Equity Project/VEI Community Engagement Workstream and CDC Foundation. 27 people availed of the vaccination.
- I attended the Library Legislative Day at the State House 3/15.

Programs

- National Women's History was celebrated throughout the month of March with the mixed media Women's Handwork exhibit.
- *Acoustic Nomads* concert 3/9 was well attended. Funded by the Southbridge Cultural Council's LCC grant.
- Book Talk/Book Club: *The Rose of Glenkerry* by Robert T McMaster, 3/16 and 24 attended.
- Afternoon Author Talks – Trisha J Wooldridge presented on 3/22
- *Women in Space* was presented by Dino Tata, NASA Ambassador for Solar System on 3/23.
- The ongoing programs the Tuesday Knitting is very active.
- Chess with instructor Ben Marinelli will be on Monday evenings 4/3 at 5 pm

Reference

- During the month many research questions were responded to – 38 transactions
- Interview for the library page position 3/28. Position was offered to the candidate

Staff

- Interview for the page position 3/28 and the position was offered. When this position is fill we will be at full staffing level.

Tax Preparation Assistance

- Professor Rivas of QCC and 10 accounting students offered tax preparation assistance. Eighteen tax payers were assisted on 3/13 (during spring break). AARP is no longer able to provide volunteer service in Southbridge and after some outreach QCC filled the breach. Eighteen tax payers were assisted. QCC anticipate returning next year and organizing contact hours earlier in the tax season.

Technology

- Facebook widget not displaying on all phone browsers. Contacted web designer to correct.
- “No signal” message from bus tracker.
- Suggested Town YouTube videos have CC turned on
- Hotspot not returned (long overdue). Data turned off immediately. New device on order.
- Updated spreadsheet of JEL’s software licenses

Teen

- The monthly *Take and Make* craft featured quilling of a shamrock.
- Chess had fourteen games. We loaned the boards to a teacher to use with her class and hope we may have new players from this expansion of the game.

Trustees

- The staff thank Beth Cournoyer for her contribution to the library and her years of service on the board.