

**March 14, 2024**

6:30 PM

Mansfield Library Trustees Meeting-

**Members Present:**

Gretchen Whitcomb, Chair

Carter Sartell, Treasurer

Lori Sherburne, Secretary

Dave Repak

Camilla Lockwood, Alternate

Elizabeth Crooker, Library Director

**Absent**

Nicole Concordia

Heather Hannon, Alternate

Mike Deloria, Alternate

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from February 8, 2024 meeting made by Carter and seconded by Dave. Unanimous approval by roll call vote.

**III. Director's Report-Submitted by Elizabeth Crooker**

Director's Report 3.14.24

February/early March Programming

Stuffy Sleepover

We had a great turnout for this event. We had more than twice as many stuffies dropped off than last year (last year 5, this year 13). It's a fun event and the kids and families really seem to enjoy getting photos of their stuffed animals. I'm considering a teddy bear/stuffy picnic or tea party later in the year. Next year, I may need a second person to help me with photos as it did take a few hours to get photos of all the stuffies doing different activities.

### Winter Wiggles Storytime

This was another well attended event. We had 8 kids and their families attend. Some of the families were not regular storytime families so it was good to reach new patrons. Will probably hold a similar event this spring.

### Monday Matinee

Our February matinee was very well attended. We had 10 people. We had a Valentine's Day theme with chocolates and other treats and each attendee received a rose. Four people attended the March movie. We have now completed a full year of this program. I would call it a success as it reaches a previously underserved group and although the attendance fluctuates a bit, we always have a few people, and they are very appreciative of the event.

### Book Club

Book club attendance is still on the low side, but we are giving out more books than ever of the monthly title.

### Preschool Storytime

Our preschool storytime has doubled since the fall. At our Dr. Seuss's storytime, we had 12 kids and their families. It really is great to see these children grow and make connections as the weeks go by. I'm looking forward to moving the program outside once the weather is consistently warmer.

### Spice Kits

We gave out 17 kits in February (rosemary). This month's kits are ready. The spice is caraway and we have given out about 8 kits since last week.

### Winter Bingo

We had a great response to this month's contest. I'll be announcing winners on Monday.

### Seed Library

The seed library opened on March 1, and more than a dozen packets of seeds have been "borrowed." We spent about \$50 on fresh seeds to supplement the seeds from last year. Special thanks to Robin for organizing all the packets.

## Eclipse Glasses

Tuesday was the first day we handed out glasses. We gave out about 30 pairs on the first day. I think being open during voting helped bring people into the library for the glasses. We received 500 pairs of glasses, so we will hand them out on a first come-first serve basis.

## February Circulation

We had a very strong February.

February 2023: 406

February 2024: 546

That's a 34% increase over last year. (Raw numbers of materials checked out from Mansfield Public Library. Does not include e-book or ILL materials).

Total for 2024 as of 3/13 = 1,243

Fun Fact: Children's books continue to drive our overall increase. Three of the top 4 checkouts this year are "Pinkalicious" books.

## Upcoming Programming/Events

### TES Field Trip

We are expecting all TES students and staff for a field trip tomorrow, Friday, March 15. I had "My Library Books/Mansfield Public Library" tote bags made and will pass them out to each student. The bags will include a pair of eclipse glasses, an info sheet about the library, activity sheets, and other goodies.

### True Cost of Food

March 18

We have invited Gene Jonas of the Hungry Bear Farm to give his presentation "The True Cost of Food" at the library in March.

### True Cost of Food Description

Why does local food cost more than that which we buy from the grocery store? In this workshop farmer Gene Jonas will share with you information he obtained from reports that

used true cost accounting techniques that holistically analyzed the costs of the industrialized food production systems that dominate that landscape today. Additional information attained from articles, books, and other sources that shed light on the reality of the industrial food system that

predominates our society will also be presented. Whether you are an advocate of local food, a local farmer, or a home grower, this talk will hopefully convince you that often times the food you buy from local farmers is the best bang for the buck, especially if it grown to organic standards.

#### Storytime at the Connolly Dairy Farm

March 22

Our group will meet at the farm to learn about the maple syrup making process.

#### Solar Eclipse Presentation

March 27 (zoom)

We are excited to host NASA Ambassador Regina Conrad for a presentation on viewing the upcoming solar eclipse. Conrad will give a short history of solar eclipse viewing and discuss safe viewing practices. She will also share images of other total solar eclipses she has experienced.

Regina saw the moons of Jupiter for the first time on a cold December night in the Bronx, New York with binoculars. She spent her career as a research assistant in commercial semiconductor research and development facilities. In 2005, after viewing her first total solar eclipse, she started working weekends at the Andrus Planetarium in Yonkers, New York. A few years later, she was invited to be part of the Friday Night Astronomy series at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center in Stamford, Connecticut. In 2010, she had the opportunity to work on the NuSTAR optics. She moved to Lyndeborough, New Hampshire in 2013 and recently retired after over 9 years as J. A. Tarbell Library's programs coordinator. April 8, 2005, was her first total solar eclipse. April 8, 2024, will be her eighth.

This presentation will be held via Zoom. The link will be posted on March 18.

#### Leap Into Spring with Snoopy

March 30

In this one-hour program children (ages 6 and up) and their caregivers will get up close and personal with a special Mini-Rex rabbit named Snoopy and learn all about a rabbits life as a leaper. This program will be presented by Claudia Dery.

#### CHILDREN WILL:

- Observe and interact with Snoopy while learning about his behavior and adaptations. (Children will not hold the rabbit during the program.)
- Learn how to identify rabbit tracks and movement patterns in the wild and try leaping like a rabbit.
- Create their own rabbit track story.

#### Ukulele Lessons with Amy Connelly

Saturday, April 27

This program is for kids ages 10 and up and adults. We have two signups so far.

Plant Swap

May 11

#### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

**NHPDIP Balance** \$21,713.70 interest only changes of \$91.83

Citizens Balance \$2,033.50

##### **February Expenses**

- Museum Pass Reimbursement \$28
- Staff holiday luncheon reimbursement \$104.81
- Programming and other expenses \$71.93

##### **February Deposits**

- NA

##### **Other**

- Book drop fund totals \$1,357
- 2024 Museum Pass Reimbursement total \$28
- Trustee Programming \$1,053 remaining
- Drama Club Donation \$172.01 remaining
- Spice Kit Donation \$321.78 remaining

#### **V. Other Business**

A. Budget-No updates

B. Friends of Library-Beth will put a board up at Town Meeting with information about Friends of Library and to recruit.

C. Bill of Rights-The Bill of Rights poster from the ALA arrived and will be hung in the library.

D. Rules of Procedure-This has been completed.

E. Landscaping-Cam received a quote from Fassett Farms to do a whole day of weeding, mulching and planting for \$1600-\$1700. Cam will book this work in.

F. Sealed Minutes-Lori will bring the sealed minutes to Beth on 3/15/24.

G. Trustee's Orientation Document-Cam continues to explore history for the document. Beth will write the job description for the position of Library Assistant.

H. ALA Membership- There was discussion about the membership and the opportunity to also enroll in a division for additional fees. All agreed to enroll in the division of Public Library Association. The total cost is \$304.00 for the year. A motion was made by Gretchen to utilize Trustee funds for this expenditure. Carter seconded. Unanimous approval by roll call vote.

#### **VI. New Business-**

A.Board Elections- Carter and Lori have been re-elected for 3-year terms. Trustees will elect officers at the next meeting. Gretchen will send the Select Board a letter to appoint the current Alternates for another year. Gretchen to check in with Mike to ask if he is interested in continuing as an Alternate for the upcoming year.

**VII. Date for next meeting:** April 11,2024 at 6:30 p.m.

**VIII. Adjourn:** Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25p.m. Gretchen seconded. Unanimous approval by roll call vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori Sherburne