

The Holmes Public Library

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Directors February 2010

First, I'd like to thank Adult Services Librarian Jean Gallant and for superbly managing the library in my absence and to thank each member of the staff for covering for me providing patrons with excellent service.

Building Update The Staff of the Board of Library Commissioners has agreed that the Library will qualify to submit a construction period (that we meet that requirement that it be more than 20 years since receipt of a construction grant). The Building Committee has met with the Finance Committee and has received their approval for an article for a replacement heating unit. The Building Committee has also decided, with the Finance Committee, that the roof repair will be re-bid.

Budget Update Jean and I met with Bob Hughes, our Finance Committee liaison to discuss our budget. I have also had a long conversation with Finance Chairman Kim Roy about the construction grant and our Revolving Fund Articles. In terms of construction, the Town's finances are not promising for the next few years. Any project we consider will need to be modest and probably include a package of several construction grants and fundraising: the Town will not be in a position to assist much financially. There is also the possibility of another construction grant round in 2016. The Council on Aging Project too has been on the Town's priority list. That project will go to the Voters in terms of a debt-exclusion this year. It is an important project for the Town, and I hope it is received favorably.

Annual Report The Annual Report to the Town is attached.

Patron Behavior Policy Attached is a patron behavior policy for the Trustees' consideration, revision and adoption. The Police Department recommends that such a policy is placed on our bulletin board upon approval. The Department has been very helpful to the library staff over the last few years, and we continue to rely on their good work and their input.

Programming Children's Librarian Marie Coady continues to offer a wide range of programming. This month, she held several special programs including the Lightning Thief Party (celebrating the book and the release of the movie); book discussions (a children's book club and a parent/child group called Books for Both of Us), Lego Master Builders and Big Ryan's Tal Tales (Sponsored by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Council). Technology Coordinator Amy Tull continues to offer the one-on-one computer training. Jean Gallant and Reference Librarian Susan Scott discussed the following books since our last meeting: Boser's *The Gardner Heist*, Shreve's *Wedding in December*, and Goodman's *The Seduction of Water*. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by those groups and the Knitters Group has encouraged the Library Staff to write a LSTA grant for additional programming.

Grants The Library has submitted a NEH We the People Bookshelf grant entitled "A More Perfect Union." If funded, the Library will receive a book collection helping to observe the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. In addition, the Library will offer programs and displays to highlight the collection and work with the Historical Society to recognize our Civil War Monument, the first in the Commonwealth.

Attached for your approval is a Library Services and Technology Act grant application for \$7,500 under a program called The Next Chapter. The goal of the grant is to offer innovative programming for the next generation of "senior" citizens, those 55 of age and older. Our application includes purchase of a SmartBoard, several laptop computers for public use and honorariums for leaders of three workshop series on creative writing, technology skills and traditional crafts. In addition, participants in the series will be part of an online community that the library will create. Participants will become comfortable with this new environment through a weekly Drop In Coffee Hour that staff will run in the Community Room.

Staff Training Sessions Amy Tull and Susan Scott attended several workshops with the goal of discovering new ways to delivery library services to our patrons. Both Amy and Susan attended the Handheld Librarian (www.handheldlibrarian.org), a national, two-day online conference for library professionals interested in mobile services by and for libraries. Amy also attended Become a Mobile Library, a full-day technology program on the mobile library as there is a growing expectation that business, government and libraries meet the needs of these mobile users.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeJonker-Berry, Library Director