

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

June 9, 2015

As you know, Town Meeting ran for three nights this year. The library article related to lost/damaged item payments was the very last number drawn in the lottery, so we ended up closing out Town Meeting! The library budget, technology upgrade, and revolving fund requests all passed, as did the Wage & Personnel article changing the Director Assistant title to Assistant Director. Thank you to all who were able to attend some or all of Town Meeting this year, especially Vice Chair Bob Fuller, who presented the articles.

I am pleased to join the board in welcoming brand-new trustee Maureen Thayer, who ran as a write-in candidate for a three-year term in the Town Election last month. Even before attending her first board meeting, she has already attended the June 1st Trustee Orientation held at the Somerset Public Library!

You have already been informed that Amy Tull, who has been the library's Technology Coordinator for just shy of seven years (since Sept. 3, 2008), has given her notice that she is retiring from the library as of June 18. We are all very sorry to see her go. Her 18-hour-a-week technology coordinator position does not include benefits, and although I had hoped to try to restore hours to the position (that were cut before Amy took the position) within a future budget (as the previous director before me had also hoped to do) time ran out on us before we could propose putting a benefited position back into our budget. The Finance Committee has been requesting level-funded budgets each year and although the reference position currently held by Susan Scott was originally set at 25 hours a week and included benefits, it has been filled at only 18 hours a week with no benefits for four years. Getting those hours and benefits back requires going before the Wage & Personnel Board, the Finance Committee, and Town Meeting for a fairly substantial budget increase.

On a positive budget note, the SAILS Network executive director Debby Conrad was instrumental in getting Small Libraries in Networks FY15 grant funding from the state for Halifax and several other small towns in SAILS to help offset the costs of being part of a library network. The Holmes has been awarded \$1731 this year which will be applied towards our FY16 annual membership assessment. If the program is funded in FY16, awards will be announced in late fall and any funding received will be applied to our FY17 assessment.

The library switched to summer hours this week so we will be closed Saturdays and open at 10 instead of 12 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Problems with the workroom phone were resolved by swapping out a cable.

The Friends of the Library held a successful Book & Bake Sale last week, bringing in about \$1400 total, including memberships. The remaining books were picked up today by Bighearted Books.

The state budget is now in conference committee so disagreements between the House and Senate budgets can be worked out. If you'd like to contact the members of the conference committee to advocate for the library budget line items especially 7000-9501 (State Aid to Public Libraries) and 7000-9506 (Automated Networks/Library Technology and Resource Sharing), I can send you their contact information.

Since April, the library monthly newsletter has also been sent to all Halifax patrons with email addresses to help keep people up to date with library news, which is also posted on Facebook and our Web site and on the town Web site, as well. The kickoff to Summer Reading is coming on Friday, June 26, 11:30 a.m., with a Magicpalooza show and cake!