

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARIES Trustees Report for 2014

This has been a busy year with many changes for Plainfield's libraries.

Both libraries are using our state-of-the-art online catalog which allows users to search the catalog and place holds from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. As the libraries have come more and more into the digital age, we are working to find ways to share between the libraries to make them more efficient – and handle increased demand. Last summer we worked with the Plainfield Police to transport books across town. We thank our police officers for their efforts.

We strive to serve our current population while planning for the expectations of the next generation of Plainfield library users. The information needs and expectations of our community and the technology to deliver that information are evolving at a rapid rate. Libraries are adapting to the changing needs of the communities they serve.

Just as the public has become more mobile and relies on more flexible work spaces, patrons want to be more mobile throughout the library. To meet that need, the board purchased four Google Chromebooks which patrons can check out and use anywhere in the libraries.

While we continue to purchase books and DVDs, downloadable ebooks and audiobooks are becoming more and more popular among Plainfield residents. Library patrons checked out 1712 of these for free in 2014.

The board gave raises to library aides that will be phased in over the next several months to bring their pay rates more in line with the regional norm.

The board would like to thank the library directors, aides, and volunteers who give countless hours to Plainfield's libraries.

We welcome and encourage interested residents to join us for our meetings. Minutes are available for your review on the town's website and on the libraries' new and updated websites.

Suzanne Spenc̈er, chair; Anita Brown, vice chair; Mark Pensgen, Treasurer; Nancy L iston; H illary S undell, Secretary

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Officer Heighes helping with story time. Photo by Nancy Norwalk

Town of Plainfield Library System Proposed Budget

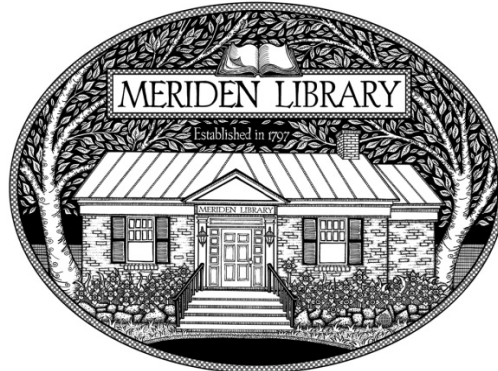
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	2014	2014	2015
Town Appropriation	\$112,649	\$104,440	\$119,506
Town Approp - FICA	\$5,009	\$4,777	\$5,143
Trust Funds	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,700
Gifts	\$0	\$650	\$0
Book Fines/Copier	\$0	\$1,221	\$0
Book			
Sales	\$0	\$45	\$0
Private/Grant Funding	\$0	\$370	\$0
Interest - Savings	\$10	\$1	\$10
Interest Checking	\$0	\$12	\$0
Total Interest Income	\$10	\$13	\$10
Encumbered Funds	\$4,854	\$4,854	\$4,149
Misc Income	\$600	\$221	\$600
Total Income	\$125,822	\$119,291	\$127,959
Expense	2014	2014	2015
Salaries	\$65,474	\$62,440	\$67,229
FICA	\$5,009	\$4,777	\$5,143
Sick Pay	\$1,285		\$1,285
Library Materials			
Audio/Visual	\$2,800	\$3,265	\$2,800
Books & magazines	\$13,400	\$12,429	\$13,400
Total Library Materials	\$16,200	\$15,693	\$16,200
Private/Grant Funded			
Expenses	\$0		\$0
Telephone	\$1,620	\$1,818	\$1,740
Electricity	\$4,700	\$4,221	\$4,700
Fuel	\$8,980	\$10,284	\$9,832
Water/Sewer	\$800	\$597	\$800
Supplies	\$2,300	\$2,278	\$2,300
Postage	\$500	\$415	\$500
Professional Activities	\$1,300	\$856	\$1,300
Programs	\$1,000	\$1,132	\$1,000
Furniture/Equipment	\$1,050	\$293	\$1,050
Elevator	\$1,700	\$1,155	\$1,700
Maintenance	\$4,900	\$5,186	\$5,150
Automation/Cataloging	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
Trustee Expenses	\$650	\$345	\$650
Computer/Software	\$1,700	\$1,858	\$4,880
Misc Expense	\$200	\$147	\$900
Encumbered Funds Expense	\$4,854	\$4,022	\$4,149
Total Expense	\$125,822	\$115,094	\$127,959

Town of Plainfield Library System Proposed Budget

Other Income, Expense and Liabilities

Income/Transfers	2014	2015
Building Fund Gifts-from Friends of PRML	\$11,910	\$60,000
Transfer from Building fund-Meriden	\$5,130	\$23,450
Expense		
Building funds Expense-PRML	\$11,910	\$60,000
Building funds Expense-Meriden	\$5,310	\$23,450
Fund Balances-Year End		
Philip Read Checking	\$6,407	
Philip Read Fines Account	\$3,581	
Meriden Checking	\$1,256	
Meriden Petty Cash	\$47	
Meriden Fines and Fees account	\$579	
Building Fund Meriden		
Savings	\$12,560	
Vanguard Money Market	\$38,065	
Vanguard Windsor Fund	\$29,920	

MERIDEN LIBRARY



The mission of the Meriden Library is to provide access to information and materials (both print and non-print) to people of all ages in the community in order to meet their recreational, informational, and educational needs. The library staff will satisfy the patron's need to know and will provide a comfortable atmosphere for community interaction.

The Meriden Library holds a collection of 10,438 books, audiobooks, periodicals, and DVDs. In 2014, we added 521 new items and 372 under-circulated, worn or outdated items were removed from the collection. Our entire collection is now cataloged in the Evergreen database making the collection viewable to all residents of Plainfield through our on-line catalog.

Through inter-library loan, we borrowed 339 items and lent 208 items to other libraries throughout the state. Patrons have access to 10,035 eBooks and 8,020 audiobooks through our paid membership to the NH Downloadable Consortium. With funding from the New Hampshire State Library we provide on-line databases to patrons that give access to periodicals, newspapers and journals as well information on fiction titles for both adults and children. The Friends of the Meriden Library funded museum passes to Billings Farm and Museum, Shelburne Museum and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Library patrons may now check out the passes for admission to these museums.

The Meriden Library hosts on-going programs for both adults and children. Book discussions and genealogy club meet monthly. During the winter months, "Game Time" is held for adults to gather with friends and neighbors for various board games and knitters gather at the library bi-monthly. We hold a weekly story time for young children with stories, songs and art. School-aged children have been enjoying science based after school programs that are led by Brad Thompson.

Our summer reading program for children, "FIZZ, BOOM, READ" was a success thanks to community members who gave their time and energy to lead programs. Jason Downs demonstrated rockets, Tom Pasquini helped children build a paper roller coaster, Larry Wolkin read for family story hour and Paul Sanchirico led a fun lesson on gravity. We all had fun building robots and naming our summer mascot, Gizmo.

In an effort to provide comfortable space, improvements were made to our basement children's room. New windows were installed, carpet was replaced, walls were painted

and shelving and furnishings were rearranged. The transformation of the children's room has given children and their families a welcoming place to spend time. Our bathroom and hallway received a fresh coat of paint making the space brighter and more attractive.

The Friends of the Meriden Library contributed time, energy and resources to support the library's mission. The Friends sponsored our summer reading kick off, "A Rock-It Science Sing-Along" with Steve Blunt and the wrap up event, a visit from the Good Humor man. In January they invited everyone to "Warm Your Winter with Soup and Good Books". The first annual kick-off to National Poetry Month was held in April and in November they sponsored a New Hampshire Humanities Council speaker, Edie Clark, to present, "Baked Beans and Fried Clams: How Food Defines a Region". In addition to sponsoring programs and funding museum passes the Friends also purchased some cheerful furnishing for the children's room.

The Meriden Library is supported by the help of many volunteers. We completed the huge project of cataloging of all of our materials by the ongoing work of dedicated volunteers, Barb Wendt, Jeanne Thompson and Fawn Goodrow. The huge undertaking of the basement project could not have happened without the help of an army of community volunteers. Books were packed and unpacked and bookshelves were removed and reinstalled all by the work of volunteers. I am extremely grateful to all of our volunteers for their support.

I also want to acknowledge the Trustees of the Town of Plainfield Libraries. Anita Brown, Nancy Liston, Mark Pensgen, Suzanne Spencer and Hillary Sundell devote countless hours to provide the leadership and governance that continues to improve our libraries.

Meriden Library Vital Statistics 2014

Circulation	10,940
Visits	6,338
Registered Borrowers	366
Programs	98
Program Attendance	1,064
Volunteer Hours	165

Respectfully submitted,
Mary S. King, Director Meriden Library



Building Robots, Meriden Library Lawn, July 2014

photo credit M. King



PHILIP READ MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Calendar Year 2014

A WORLD OF THANKS—In November, the Friends of the Philip Read Memorial Library held a celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the addition to the library and honoring our staff, director, and volunteers. The theme was a “World of Thanks” with tables set up with food and exhibits of various countries. Over 100 people attended. This was very special.

2014 has been a year of great achievements. The fiction collection (science, mystery, regular fiction) was integrated into one system, alphabetical by author, instead of separate groups. This makes it possible for patrons to find novels by the same author together, no matter what the genre. The large print collection was moved to another location. Much weeding has been accomplished. Automation progress has been outstanding. All items are now being checked out through the automation system. We have been fortunate to have three dependable, loyal and hardworking volunteers who have worked many hours each week to finish inputting all items in our collection into the computer system. Thank you to Jesse Stalker, Sharon Oszajca, and Alice Eberhardt.

Library Statistics: Our circulation was 11,947 with 7,885 plus an additional 346 (children’s summer plays) patron visits; 1,166 patrons used the public computers and Wi-Fi; 14,802 searches were done on the Ancestry and Heritage databases. Our automation and other volunteers worked 1,279.5 hours this year.

Programs this year were very exciting. The Summer Reading Program theme was “Fizz, Boom, Read.” Per this theme, we held several science-related programs, as well as a float (together with the Meriden Library). One really special and fun program was “Jedi Knight Training.” Star Wars fans were delighted to receive training and to have a lightsaber duel with the Jedi Master. This program was partly funded with a grant from the New Hampshire State Library’s Kids, Books, and Arts Program.

Other programs were: monthly book discussions and story time (with Diane MacDonald, Officer Billy Heighes, Mrs. Santa Claus); together with the Meriden Bird Club, a showing of the film “Sanctuary: a Bird Masque” (a performance at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site; a presentation of a new cookbook written by Molly Sheehan; a series of felting classes by Brian East and Amy Rawson; fly Fishing and casting with Steve Rowe; a showing of the film “Last Call” an environmental film featuring the late Donella and Dennis Meadows, former Plainfield residents; author readings with Ruth Whybrow and Jessica Landers; plays by the Momentum Theater; a celebration of “The Wizard of Oz” on its 75th anniversary. On Halloween, 180 scary people came through for refreshments and goody bags.

The Book Discussion Group read “Life, Love and Elephants” about a woman in Africa who is working to save the elephants. As a result, the group adopted an orphaned elephant through a fostering program operated by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

In honor of Plainfield Village’s late non-flying raven, Edgar, our contribution to the Pumpkin People was Edgar Allen Poe writing his famous poem “The Raven,” with Edgar looking over his shoulder (designed by Sarah Gillens).

The Friends of the Philip Read Memorial Library raised additional funds to finish the downstairs level (book sale, raffles, Maxfield Parrish Print Sale, etc.). It is close to completion. Lighting, walls and ceilings are all in. Painting was finished with the labor donated. The new meeting room is heavily used with library programming and meetings by ten local groups. The library is hosting monthly foot clinics by the Connecticut Valley Health Care. The Friends continue to raise funds for the bookcases, flooring and miscellaneous furniture. The entire library addition would not have been possible without the Friends' support and fundraising. The community owes a big Thank You to this group.

Thank you to Des Hudson who has been our volunteer computer guru for the past ten years. Volunteering an average two hours a week, he has been a wonderful help by installing, updating, and keeping our public and staff computers operating correctly. Des has saved the staff and I much time. We miss him.

Thank you to the Plummer family for donating an outside bench in honor of their mother, Doris Plummer. She was a longtime librarian of the Philip Read Memorial Library. Brian East donated a sculpture of "Griselda" (a Maxfield Parrish painting) made from willow and goldenrod. Thank you to the seventh graders (during the Beaupre Community Day) and the students at the Estabrook School for needed outdoor work. Thank you to Jeanne Hines for writing a successful grant from the Tasker Bridge Fund to purchase sign language DVDs. Thank you to the volunteers who help at the desk and other library tasks (Shirley Hudson, Cindy Heath, Kathy Wright, Hillary Sundell, David Roberts, Kate Cricco and the Friends).

The old lights in the original rooms were replaced with energy efficient lighting to match the lighting in the addition, and the ceilings painted.

I again took part in World Book Night, distributing free books to the community on the same night that over 6,000 volunteers across the country were participating. The staff and I had training from the State Library on e-books and downloadable audio. We also attended fire extinguisher training provided by the town.

We said good-bye to Suellen Leugers who has retired after two years at the library. Thank you Suellen. We welcome Sarah Gillens as our new staff member. Ruth Stalker, long time staff member, is very much appreciated.

The Philip Read Memorial Library has much to offer. For your pleasure, we have books, magazines, DVDs, audio books, museum passes, public computers and Wi-Fi, interlibrary loan access (from all libraries in the state), downloadable e-books and audio, special collection items and genealogy research.

Thank you to all our volunteers. The community wouldn't have such a vibrant library without you.

Nancy Norwalk, Library Director