

Webster Free Public Library
Annual Report of the Trustees

2022 was the beginning of a return to normal for the library with in person visits, presentations, and book club meetings. The library will continue porch pick-ups and Home Bound Delivery Service for people who are not yet comfortable coming to the library, but we hope that as time passes more people will find their way to us.

For the first time since 2020, the library held in person events. Two special programs were Forgotten Plane Crashes of New Hampshire with Nicholas Wallner, and How to do Genealogy Research with Barbara Corliss.

The library also sponsored the Webster Gardeners an informal group of Webster residents with an interest in gardening. Donna Frost got the group going by organizing talks on composting, seed sharing, and making your own seed pots. Several people welcomed the gardeners to their own gardens for lovely and informative tours.

The library continued with the popular Free Friday Movies complete with snacks and comfy chairs. The book group continues to meet on Zoom but is considering having a hybrid format in the future.

The Summer Reading Program was popular with the theme Oceans of Possibilities. Parent volunteers read to the children, did craft projects, and provided snacks. Museum passes continue to be available for patrons to use. The passes include the Currier Museum, Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, the NH Telephone Museum, the SEE Science Center, Strawberry Banke Museum, and The Fells.

2022 brought a new addition to the library with the Library of Things. While many people think of libraries consisting of books, magazines, and audio books, the Library of Things has items such as puzzles, a telescope, a knitting machine, a stud finder and many other items that can be borrowed.

Leslie Collins a trustee for many years retired this year and Denise Lawless has joined the board. Thank you, Leslie, for all your hard work and dedication to the library, and welcome Denise.

Thank you to Judith O'Donnell and Phil and Marylou Desmarais for their generous donations as well as to everyone who donated books and time including our Wednesday night volunteers.

The library added 37 new patrons and removed 35 giving us a total of 453 registered borrowers. 1,445 people visited the library during the year and checked out 4,282 books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, museum passes, and Library of Things items. 4,329 audiobooks, eBooks, magazines, movies, television shows, music, and comics were downloaded. We loaned 363 materials to other libraries and borrowed 190 through interlibrary loan. By borrowing materials from the library, our members saved \$62,663.78 over the cost of purchasing them.

Our most popular book in 2022 was *Wish You Were Here* by New Hampshire author, Jodi Picoult, and our most popular DVD was *Free Guy*.

Thank you to the people of Webster for their continued support of the library.