

WEBSTER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Annual Report of the Trustees for the Year 2023

Highlights of the year:

The library co-sponsored with the Webster Historical Society a second talk on how to do genealogical research, given by Barbara Corliss, and co-sponsored with the Webster Conservation Commission a talk by natural resource specialist Kathie Fife on tick ecology and patient advocacy.

The library's long-running Book Group began meeting in a hybrid format of in-person and online through Zoom, and our popular monthly movies continued throughout the year.

The Summer Reading Program had its first in-person finale since the pandemic began, featuring a visit with Squam Lakes Natural Science Center's "Creatures with Bad Reputations."

The library served as a distribution site for Covid-19 antigen tests for the community.

A part-time library assistant was hired to help meet growing needs.

1,578 people visited the library and our 483 patrons checked out 4,000 books, magazines, and other materials, as well as downloading 4,456 eBooks, audiobooks, movies, tv shows, music and magazines, from the Hoopla and the New Hampshire Downloadable Books sites. We loaned out 412 materials to other libraries and, in turn, borrowed 120 from them. We added 448 materials to the library, and discarded 283, giving us a total of 11,807 books, DVDs, audiobooks, and other materials. Our patrons saved \$66,647.17 by borrowing materials from the library rather than purchasing them.

Our most popular movie was *The Fabelmans* and the most popular book was *Storm Watch*, by J. C. Box.

We thank the Town of Webster for their continued support of the library and we look forward to another year of serving the informational and cultural needs of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Picthall-French, Chair  
Martin Bender, Treasurer  
Denise Lawless, Secretary