

Director's report

February 1, 2021

1. Gratitude

- We are grateful to Betty and Nancy for getting Take & Make Crafts to even more families this week, by distributing kits through the school (in addition to those available here). Watch the video [here!](#)
- Doug Macleay has donated more time and met with me and Eric Dean, continuing work towards plans to improve the library drainage and parking.
- Tom Yeomans donated books from his personal collection to our poetry collection, and also spoke with the [Greenfield Recorder about the Carol Purington Poetry Collective](#). To that end, we're grateful to the Recorder for two great articles this month, including a [cover story about the Libraries Transform grant!](#)
- Further to the above, we continue to receive donations in Carol's memory: more than \$9,000 so far, including one donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Turkey Plains. As well, we have begun receiving donations to the Friends in response to the town mailer, and a number of new card registrations!

2. Building/grounds

- The library closed remains closed to the public. I look forward to discussing plans to reopen with the Library Board in our monthly meeting.
- The HVAC unit upgrades are complete!

3. Administration

- Our annual report was submitted to the Town of Colrain. (Included in this Board package.)
- Funds were received for our "Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on small and rural libraries" grant. I connected today with Janice Barnes about outreach to seniors, alongside the Council of Aging. We can plan to share an insert in the monthly meals, and to put up our "pop-up library" sometime in the warmer months.
- Chelsea is part-way through the training associated with the grant above.
- Chelsea has developed a new template for program planning, which ties to our strategic plan, and a draft survey for the caregivers of "Stories & Songs"-aged children. We'll share the survey in print, on our website, via social media and the Clarion, and through CFCE.
- January was a big month for our social media, with more than 2,100 post views, 590 "engagements," and 11 new page "likes."

4. Public services

- Libraries in the Woods has selected *Station Eleven* by Hilary St. John Mandel for the next Community Read. GML pledged \$200 of programming funds to the pool. The audacious goal is to get the author herself for an event!
- So far, there are 12 people registered for the inaugural meeting of the Poetry Collective this Friday, February 5th at 6:00. Six people have registered for the next Kindness Reading Project book discussion on Wednesday, February 17th at 6:00. The group is reading *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Chelsea extended a special invitation to Colrain Police to join the discussion.
- Patron comments:

Chelsea and Kate: You are the best. Your book choices rock!

Thank you for zeroing in on our book & film DESIRES!

It's been good to keep moving through these changes and it's just really tough some days/moments. Finding comfort in the [book you recommended], shaping the change to come, shaping the changes of each day.

You are an inspiration for us all. Thank you for the work you do for our town with such care trying to reach and connect with each one of us - Colrain's residents.

Kids had lots of fun with [the Take & Make kits], thanks you all!

5. Youth services

- Ms. Betty's January Take & Make Craft video was viewed 28 times. We distributed almost all of the kits—only a few of the special kits for children younger than two remain. We produced three Stories and Songs online videos in January. In total, they have been viewed 24 times.
- We added lots of new kids' non-fiction to our collection this month, and used funds from the CFCE to purchase board books that we can use for "Reverse Reading" once we are able to hold Stories & Songs in person again, one day!