

## Director's report

May 14, 2021

### 1. Gratitude

- Nancy really deserves a round of applause for all the graphic design work she has done for us this month, even more than usual! The Apess Day poster and pledge cards are especially striking and getting them printed correctly took hours of work and correspondence.
- We are grateful to the select board for holding a discussion about William Apess Day, and hopefully passing a motion to this effect, and for helping us to plan ahead in respect to traffic and parking.
- Thanks to Drew Lopenzina, for making the trip to MA and bringing other speakers on board! And also to Rhonda Anderson for her input and encouragement as we pull this event together.
- We are grateful to everyone who has put time into the governance committee and fundraising committee—this is super important work and we are grateful for your time and efforts!
- Jessica O'Neill Van Steensberg from Just Roots donated a new book by local author Trouble Mandleson, and also made a personal introduction, and we are now in talks to plan a zine making workshop with other libraries. Thanks, Jess!
- Thanks to Betty for the time she has devoted to GML this month, meeting with me to track FY2021 spending (as the year comes to a close), supporting the Earth Rhythms event on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00, helping Kate and Chelsea to plan a story walk, and planning crafts for Summer Reading Club—all this on top of another great “Crafts with Ms. Betty,” and her work on the governance committee!
- I also want to give a shout out to Kate for going above and beyond the call of duty to attend library events and select board meetings, including every meeting of the Carol Purington Poetry Collective to date!

### 2. Building/grounds

- Western Mass Pro Wash paid a site visit and has prepared quote to power wash the building, in the amount of \$1,800.00.
- Doug Macleay gave an update on May 14<sup>th</sup>, stating that he still intends to pull a soil sample and draft plans for our drainage/paving/bulkhead/ramp project this spring/summer.
- Barry Nye is scheduled for masonry work this summer also.
- Construction on the new sidewalks will not conflict with Apess Day on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 3. Administration

- Chelsea and Kate began a spreadsheet to track our goals and progress towards our 2021 initiatives. This will act as a shared PDP.
- Kate watched two videos about the 3R's (reliability, responsiveness, and relationship building) in accordance with one of the initiatives that was identified for this year. (1. All visitors and staff feel welcome and safe to use our space, ask for help, and give their feedback: Our team have received training to practice the 3R's of Customer Excellence.)
- Chelsea developed a gift form, as per our strategic initiatives, to show the items received into our collection from Tom and Anne Yeomans.

### 4. Public services

- Kate hosted a discussion of *Betty* on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. There was only one participant, but their feedback was very positive: "This was a very open and respectful discussion of sensitive topics that allowed processing of the book contents in a healthy way."
- On Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Chelsea presented "No Sh\*t: Information & Media Literacy," alongside Rachel Bergquist of Squamish Public Library, and moderated by Jeanette Bruce of the Whistler Public Library. There were more than a dozen participants in real time, and the YouTube video has been watched 80+ times. Feedback included the comment: "I'm a visual person so the visuals were all very helpful in keeping me locked in, overall I found it to be an excellent program with great energy." Trustees may wish to note that this talk included a discussion about land and territorial acknowledgments.
- The Kindness Reading Project, a partnership with the West County Kindness Project, hosted a discussion of *Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism* on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Six people attended, besides Chelsea.
- There didn't seem to be much interest in the LITW programs; although 400+ people attended the author event, we aren't able to assess how many were from Colrain. Per the other LITW librarians, we will be reporting "20" as the number of locals in attendance, but this is overly generous. Only one participant came to the hill town book discussion on May 5<sup>th</sup>—he noted in his program evaluation that it was odd to be the only "normal person," (by which he meant a patron, and not a librarian), though he said he enjoyed the book.
- Eight people attended the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Carol Purington Poetry Collective. The next meeting will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Feedback has included the following:
  - I love it and look forward to hearing others selected poetry, being introduced to new poets and having a willing audience for the poetry I choose to share.
  - Sharing a common experience, especially one that makes people "feel" that experience is a gift beyond words even when words are the source of the experience!
  - Thanks for being a source of inspiration!
  - Would like to continue meeting on Zoom. It is hard to go out after a long work day!
- Upcoming programs include:
  - William Apess Day, Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with Drew Lopenzina, Rhonda Anderson, Erica Wheeler, and more. Preparations for this program can be seen here, in many emails back and forth with presenters, and also include a press release that was sent to NEPR and the *Greenfield Recorder*.
  - The Carol Purington Poetry Collective meets on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

- Kindness Reading Project: Such a Fun Age, Wednesday, June 23rd at 6:00 by Zoom: Read the book that has been described as "a page turner with beautifully-drawn characters and a riveting plot."
- We've tentatively scheduled our first "library pop-up" at the transfer station for June 5<sup>th</sup>. We have been collecting the different pieces we need to make eye-catching displays to bring people to our table, including more display easels and a branded table runner.

## 5. Youth services

- We will be hosting "Earth Rhythms: A socially distanced outdoor participatory program," with Parents' Choice Award-winning Performers Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell, this Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 on the library lawn!
- Pine Hill is interested in partnering with us on a "story walk" at Pine Hill this summer, with funds from CFCE. We are leaning towards using the book *Some Pets*, by Angela DiTerlizzi, a local author. This book ties in neatly to the Summer Reading Club theme, "Tails and Tales."
- Ms. Betty's Take & Make Craft remains very popular, with lots of enthusiasm over May glitter flowers. The April video was viewed 13 times, and the May video has already been seen 26 times!
- Betty, Chelsea and Kate met to discuss Summer Reading Club plans on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Upcoming kids' programs include:
  - Summer Reading Club kick-off: MAGIC with Scott Jameson Saturday, June 17th at 11:00 on the library lawn!