

President's Message:

Welcome to the October 25, 2021 Annual Meeting

The Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome you to the 127th Annual Meeting of the Wayne Library Association.

We have now survived 17 months of this Covid 19 Pandemic, and library operations continue in a modified way as the Delta variant continues to surge. Until the pandemic abates, we still are largely masked inside the library, especially if children are present, as they are not yet vaccinated. We are able to maintain regular hours and provide flexible services depending on individual needs.. Janet, our librarian for the past 33 years, still attends monthly zoom meetings hosted by the Maine State Library, so she is up to date with any shifting protocols. Although library patrons continue to use the computers, and borrow books and movies at a steady rate, we have not been able to offer any author talks or other events inside the library itself. Hopefully pandemic restrictions will ease soon!

However, we were able to offer our regular children's programs in a wonderful outdoor tent that we purchased, as well as a variety of outdoor meetings and other events all summer.

The Williams House hosted a lot of activities this past year, many of them wholly or partially outside. The driveway, lawns and patio create flexible spaces where tents can be set up, book racks can be wheeled out, and tables and chairs can be put out. First Saturdays resumed, folks continued to donate 'boutique' items, and the Alice Room received a number of viewings.

Katie King returned for her third summer as our student intern, and stayed quite busy in July and August. We are grateful for her positive spirit and professional demeanor. Volunteers continue to work a few hours at the front desk, and Lee Berendt's book team is well organized and able to offer a used book sale on a regular basis. The book sorting station in the Williams House barn is well organized, and used books arrive on a regular basis.

FOL - The Friends of the Library - was able to provide financial assistance to the library, and able to hold several popular fund raisers following CDC guidelines. We also sponsored our annual 5K walk/run this year after having to cancel it last year. Janet and Kay Conley, and other members of the auction team worked very hard to provide our highly popular online fundraising auction.

We remain very grateful to Dawn and Kevin Brooks for the careful volunteer stewardship of our financial accounts. Dawn pays the bills and organizes every transaction on spreadsheets that provide great documentation. She meets with the finance team, completes the extensive tax form, helps develop yearly budgets and

carefully maintains our membership and address list. Kevin attends Board meetings, communicates with Kent Whittaker, our financial advisor at H.M. Payson, and provides advice and recommendations whenever requested.

The Ed Kallop and Ned Baker Endowment Fund is separately invested from our regular endowment fund, and a revised investment policy reflects the needs of both funds. The Library Board has access to the interest from this bequest, and determines how these funds are best used. Treasurer Kevin Brooks will provide further details in his report of these funds and the rest of our Endowment Funds as well as our income, expenses and planned budget for next year.

All of our policies and mission and vision statement are available on the website and in the library. We continue to collaborate with a variety of other non profits around Wayne, and they frequently use our spaces for meetings. One collaboration is with the Town of Wayne to produce a town map including local businesses, and an artistic graphic of downtown Wayne. Another collaboration this summer was with the Wayne Community Church doing a 3 part discussion around racial issues. Purchasing our zoom account through the Maine State Library continues to be very helpful. MaryJean Cowing does a great job recording minutes of all the meetings, maintaining the website, and keeping a yearly notebook with all pertinent documents. Gardeners Cindy Pelliccia and Jaime Ault continue to maintain and plant our wonderful gardens on both sides of the road. We're grateful for their hard work and the regular attention both these gardens receive. Bud Norton has mowed the library lawn for over 20 years at no charge. Jared Dyer has taken on the responsibility of keeping us free of ice and snow in the winter. Don Welsh heads up a team of maintenance folks, including non-Board members, who work hard and tend to all issues relating to buildings or grounds. They do a wonderful job, and we are so thankful for them, and all our helpers. Jane Davis has now retired after 3 years as our Recording Secretary, and Board member Jeannie Burnett has stepped into this vital position. She receives lists from Dawn Brooks, and sends a letter to all our Donors, which serves as our heartfelt thanks and a record for the IRS. Thank you Jane and Jeannie.

We are a private, free, public library and have had a suggested annual dues rate of \$5.00 a year for many years now. The Board voted to continue this rate, as this is manageable for most families, and is an incentive for many others to make an additional donation. This policy has worked well for many years, and we are in favor of continuing it.

The Pandemic has slowed us down some, but essential services are continuing to proceed in a safe way, and we will survive well into the future. Thank you so much for attending and supporting us in all the many ways you do.

We will now proceed with individual reports.