

TPL Draft Board Agenda April 1, 2023, 5:00pm

Officers	Board and Others	Board and Others									
<input type="checkbox"/> Janet Bosworth-Pres	<input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Hamlin-Sec	<input type="checkbox"/> Marie Finnegan	<input type="checkbox"/>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Caroline Ward-Nesbit-Dir	<input type="checkbox"/> Patricia (Trish) Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Carrie Brezzo	<input type="checkbox"/> Harold Willey	<input type="checkbox"/>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Barstow		<input type="checkbox"/>									
Time IN: 5:xx pm	Time OUT: X:xx pm	Results / Action									
Discussion – Both in person and Zoom meeting		Follow Up									
<p>April 1st on Monday. Here's the link to register https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpduqurTkvgNQahejVhhA-m63gMNYqQmzJ Caroline will send her Librarian's Report out before the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the Agenda: • Approve Jan 8th, 2024, Minutes <p>Librarian’s Report April 1st 2024 Starting with the great news – the budget committee approved our increased municipal appropriation request that will allow us to make Toby’s position as youth programming librarian permanent. Many, many thanks to everyone who came out or tuned in to the budget committee meeting in support. Whole budget will be going before the Select Board on April 8. Library’s budget overview is attached. Additional great news – in preparation for the budget meeting, I compared our programming and attendance numbers from Jan & Feb 2023 to Jan & Feb 2024:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of programs</td> <td>26</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td># of participants</td> <td>173</td> <td>570</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Our programming numbers for 2023 were perfectly respectable – a bit better than we were doing just before COVID – but I think this is an excellent indicator of what we are capable of going forward.</p> <p>Ongoing Programming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Monthly Book Clubs Mystery (1st Thursday), Pop-Up (3rd Thursday), and Intergenerational (3rd Tuesday) • Crafter’s Club – 2nd & 4th Fridays • TPL Poets’ Corner 2nd & 4th Mondays • Communi-TEA – 3rd Friday • Senior Exercise Class w/ Rec Department • Family Movie & Pizza Nights, 1st Friday • Saturday Storytimes • Trivia Night with Knox Clinic • Afterschool program, Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly, 3(ish) to 4:30(ish) • Monthly programming series with Cushing Library • Weekly playgroup for kids 0-5 with Healthy Kids 			2023	2024	# of programs	26	57	# of participants	173	570	<p>.</p> <p>Approve Minutes</p> <p>1st</p> <p>2nd</p>
	2023	2024									
# of programs	26	57									
# of participants	173	570									

Recent Programs:

- Trivia Nights continue to be very popular – Jesse & I have settled on every other month seeming doable, next dates May 16 & July 18, themes TBD
- First programs of series with Cushing Library – presentations from maritime author & historian Jim Nelson and pilot & author Mary Build

Upcoming Programs:

- Coffee Chat with Kathy Derene of Coast Family Hospice Volunteers
- Next Trivia Nights will be May 16 & July 18
- Collaborative Programming with Cushing Library
 - ✓ Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 PM @ Thomaston – Maine cheesemaker, farmer, and horsewoman Jessie Dowling on participating in the 2023 Mongol Derby
 - ✓ Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 PM @ Thomaston – Patricia Sullivan, Director of Museum of Maritime Pets, “Introduction to Maritime Animals Throughout History”
 - ✓ Sunday, June 9, 2:00 PM @ Cushing – Maine author & retired supervisor of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Tim Caverly, “A Hard Road to the Allagash Wilderness”
 - ✓ Saturday, July 20, time TBA @ Cushing – Musician & music historian Marc Black, “Growing Up in the Woodstock Generation”
 - ✓ Wednesday, July 24, 6:30 PM @ Thomaston – Maine author Monica Woods on new novel “How to Read a Book” (collaboration with Cushing & Vose Libraries)
 - ✓ Sunday, August 11, 2:00 PM @ Thomaston – Maine children’s author Diane Madden, “The Story of Neeps and Tattie”
 - ✓ September TBA
 - ✓ Sunday, October 27, 10 AM @ Cushing – Maine children’s author Liza Gardner Walsh, “Ghost Hunter’s Handbook”
 - ✓ Thursday, November 7, 6:30 PM @ Cushing – Poet Kristen Lindquist & Author Paul Doiron, reading their work

Programs in the works:

- Teen advisory board
- Prose writing group
- Board Game Night
- Movie Nights for grown-ups, with themed food
- Continued partnership with Cushing & other area libraries for author talks & more

Other updates

- ALA grant progress: we have estimates from Maine Coast Construction & Tim Wilson – will provide more detail during the meeting, but long story short Tim’s estimate is within the budget for the project. Just waiting for approval from the Academy board before he can put us on the calendar.
- Work on the reorg in the children’s room continues, still getting overwhelmingly positive feedback from the parents.

Budget Summary – Thomaston Public Library

In 2023, the Thomaston Public Library conducted a strategic planning process to look at the Library's needs over the next five years. The strategic planning process highlighted the community's desire and need for additional programming, particularly children's programming, but it was also apparent that it would be beyond our current staff's capacity.

Since the end of 2020, the Library has been operating with four librarians/library assistants instead of our usual five, which was manageable at the time as we were doing fewer programs than usual during the height of the pandemic. Having a smaller staff is part of how we have been able to weather increased costs due to inflation in the past couple of years reasonably well. However, as we have been ramping our programming back up and beyond what we did in the past, the need for more staff hours – particularly with a staff member experienced in youth programming – became extraordinarily obvious. We were lucky when one of our long-time 40 Days of Summer staffers, Toby Mergendahl, decided to move back to town after college and expressed interest in joining our year-round team. Not only does he have the experience we need for these programs, but also he has established rapport with many of the kids in the community.

Increasing our staff hours has enabled us to launch many new programs, including:

- twice-weekly afterschool program, with the hope of increasing to three or four days per week next fiscal year
- weekly playgroup for kids under age 5
- bimonthly trivia night with free childcare
- poetry group
- crafters' club
- prose writing group

This new programming has been undertaken while also continuing established favorites such as our Senior Exercise Class, story time, Family Movie & Pizza Night, multiple book groups, monthly Communi-TEA, author talks, and, of course, our extremely successful 40 Days of Summer lunch-and-activities program for kids.

We've welcomed many new young families into town who are thrilled to see an active and thriving library in Thomaston, and we continue to provide excellent service to the patrons who have been part of our community for decades. None of this would be possible without the staff who are the heart of Thomaston Public Library. Additional staff hours also enable us to guarantee library hours and programming while accommodating sick time, personal time, and vacation time for staff.

Increasing staff hours allows us to keep our programming budget static for the coming year, and we have made reductions where we can in other areas. The Library's budget will still increase by 8.5%, but with additional fundraising from the Friends of the Thomaston Public Library and our endowment funds, we have kept the municipal appropriation request to 48.9% of the Library's total budget, only a 2.5% increase from FY24. We hope the Budget Committee, Select Board, and Town of Thomaston will continue to support the Library that is so vital to a vibrant and growing community.

Expenses	FY24	FY25	Difference
Staff Wages	106,279	119,770	13,491
FICA	8,130	9,162	1,032
Education & Training	300	300	0
Building Maintenance & Utilities	10,963	11,362	399
General Supplies & Equipment	4,836	4,640	(196)
Programming & Community Events, Including 11 th year of 40 Days of Summer	5,200	5,200	0
Fees & Memberships	1,980	1,980	0
Bank Fees for Endowment Management	2,000	0	(2,000)
Employee Benefits	26,068	27,410	1,342
Total	165,756	179,824	14,068
			0
Revenue Sources	FY24	FY25	Difference
Patron fees, printing & copy fees, coffee sales	950	1,175	225
Friends of the Library Contributions	26,000	28,500	2,500
Library Fund Interest	54,814	56,149	1,335
40 Days of Summer Fundraising	6,000	6,000	0
Municipal Appropriation	77,000	88,000	11,000
Total	164,764	179,824	15,060
Comments, Questions, Concerns, Problems, or Praise:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjournment X:xx pm - The Next Lib Meeting is XYZ at 5pm. 			

Respectfully Submitted, Greg Hamlin, Secretary