

Inlet Public Library Annual Meeting

Summary of 2021

COVID 19 continues to affect patron use of the library. Patron visits for November 2020 thru October 2021 were just under 5900 significantly lower than the record number of visits recorded for the year ending November 2019 which was 9400. It is anticipated that as COVID 19 conditions improve patron visits will increase. Use of the public computers continues to decline as people have their own devices while use of the free wi-fi increased totaling 3,332 connections for the year. Patrons, and visitors continue to express gratitude and appreciation for the library being open. The hours of operation remain unchanged: October -June the library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10-2 and Saturday from 10-12 and from July - September the library is open Monday -Friday from 10-3 and Saturday from 10-1.

The demand for books on CD, movies on DVD and Blue Ray, as well as best-seller books remains high. Recently there has been an increase in the request for large-print books. With a good knowledge of what patrons like Library Director Joanne Kelly works diligently to obtain materials patrons will utilize. The used-book room remains popular on a free-will donation basis. These books are available any time the library is open as well as any time the Town of Inlet has special events.

Funding for the library comes from a variety of sources. Government sources include: Town of Inlet, the Inlet Common School, SALS (Library state aid), and Hamilton County. A significant source of income comes from donations which for 2021 amounted to just under \$25,000. Sources for this year include: a bequest, multiple charitable trust funds, checks from individuals, donations for used books, the donation jars, fees for printing copies or sending faxes and use of the upstairs space.

Due to COVID 19 the children's story hour was not offered this summer. Activities in the children section continue to be limited. Only five children signed up for the individualized summer reading program. It is anticipated that as COVID 19 declines programs and services for children will increase.

The library held its annual Ice Cream social, which was well attended despite the cool, rainy day and COVID 19 concerns. Approximately 75 people attended, and 67 ice cream sundaes were served.

On August 14th the library held a reception for Gary, Carol and Justin VanRiper, authors of the Adirondack Kids book series to celebrate and launch the 20th book in the series. Twenty years of original cover art and interior sketches from the series are on display in the library. Forty-nine people attended, mostly families with children. After the presentation and questions light refreshments were served and books from the series were available for purchase.

Delayed, because of COVID 19, the 2019-2020 Library Construction Grant was approved in October 2020 which covered the cost of the central air conditioner the library installed in July 2020. The library completed the grant in March 2021 by installing LED lighting throughout the library.

The Board of Regents for the University of the State of New York establishes library standards for the operation of chartered libraries. Each library, which is registered with the State Education Department must report annually that established minimum standards are met. Minimum standards were revised in 2018 and implemented in 2021. The Library Board spent most of the year reviewing and updating what we already had in place: by-laws, written annual budget, written annual report and library operating policies. A committee of three board members reviewed the operating policies and drafted a Pandemic Operations Policy which the board approved. Three board members and the library director attended 5 webinars by SALS on suggested steps to take to implement the required minimum standards. A committee of three board members and the library director drafted the “Long Range Plan, 2021-2026” approved by the board.

The Long Range Plan established three main goals:

1. Raise community awareness of the library and all that it has to offer. A board member is keeping postings on Facebook updated and the library director is working on getting relevant documents posted on the web site.
2. Offer technology programs for staff and community. The library director is working closely with SALS IT staff to obtain needed training.
3. Promote educational and entertainment programs. Steps to take include coordinating with community partners to share resources. This year the library joined the Inlet Area Business Association (IABA) with Library Director Joanne Kelly as the representative. Through this membership the library has gained an increased presence in the community and ready access to planned community events and activities.

The Town of Inlet has approximately 300 year-round residents 46% of which are over age 60. Through the years the library has evolved from filling reading and research needs from a bookmobile every two weeks to the opening of the Little Schoolhouse Library in 1982 to becoming the Town of Inlet Public Library in its current location in 1998. The library is a vital part of the Inlet community providing library services for adults and children of year-round residents, of seasonal residents and of vacationers and visitors.

The Library Board is committed to moving forward following the guidelines outlined in the Long Range Plan. The underlying priority is to raise community awareness of all the library has to offer while working collaboratively with community groups to offer needed services and programs of interest. In the past the library has been viewed as a building, with the expectation that because it existed people would come. People do come and for a variety of reasons. They come for books, movies, books on CDs, to use the computers or wi-fi, to browse the Used Book Room, for notary services, for directions or just to relax, read, and socialize. The future must involve reaching out to those who need or wish library services but are unable to come in person. This will be accomplished through additional use of technology and coordinating with other community service providers.

COVID 19 certainly has made 2021 a challenging year for the library. The Board is appreciative of all Library Director Joanne Kelly has done throughout the year providing services while

ensuring a safe environment for both the staff and public. The board is also appreciative of all the help received from the Town of Inlet officials and staff. As president I would like to thank all the hard work and dedication of board members who help ensure the library consistently offers the best services to our community. And lastly, the biggest thank you goes to our patrons for without them the library would not exist.

Respectfully,

Mary Jane Lasher

Inlet Library Board President