

Inlet Public Library Annual Meeting
Summary of 2022

COVID 19 concerns continued to affect patron visits the first half of the year (November through April). Beginning in May, as concerns lessened usage of the library and its resources began to increase. Total visits increased to 6,057 for the time period November 2021 through October 2022; a modest improvement over 2021. Use of the public computers continues to decline but use of the library's free wi-fi increased over last year to 3,888 connections. With technology improvements the Library Director now tracks materials checked out through overdrive. From November 2021 through September 2022, 720 materials were checked out. In the same time period 4,021 materials were checked out from the library's collection. Many of our patrons still prefer the feel of a book in their hands.

The hours of operation remain unchanged. The library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10-2 and Saturday from 10-12 and from July through September the library is open Monday through Friday from 10-3 and Saturday from 10-1. Patrons and visitors continue to express appreciation for the library being open and available. Many enjoy having wi-fi access 24/7 in the courtyard along with the charging station.

The demand for books on CD as well as movies on DVD and Blue Ray remains high as many seasonal patrons and visitors do not have access to network tv programs. Movies provide their downtime entertainment. Books on CD are sought after by those who have difficulty reading books or who regularly travel distances with limited radio connectivity. With a good knowledge of what patrons like and need Library Director Joanne Kelly works diligently to obtain materials which will be utilized. 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 from November 2021 through October 2022 amounted to \$38,480.96, \$30,000 of which came from a family memorial fund to pay for a new well and water system. The remainder came from charitable trust funds, checks from individuals, donations for used books, the donation jars, fees for printing copies or faxes, the library's annual ice cream social and use of the upstairs space.

For programs 37 children participated in the summer reading program. Prizes were awarded each time the child completed 300 pages. As the number of pages read increased the value of the prize increased. Prizes were donated by local businesses and ranged from an ice cream cone to a movie pass. In addition, the children enjoyed the find-the duckie-program receiving a miniature rubber duckie upon successfully finding the duck located somewhere in the library. In August families enjoyed the Ice Cream Social during which 109 sundaes were given out. Many browsed the used book room as well as the children's area. In October children and families participated in Adirondack Kids Day activities. The library hosted 2 Illustrators and 3 authors.

Children, working with the illustrator had the opportunity to create their own illustrations of objects displayed by the illustrator. The authors displayed, signed, and offered books for sale. The Inlet Book club of 20 members meets monthly with 4-12 attending. Many members are seasonal but like to know what the group is reading.

This year several major repairs and equipment replacements were needed. With a \$30,000 donation from a family memorial fund we were able to replace the antiquated point well with a drilled well and new water system. This well provides water for the library, the post office and upstairs space. With a special attachment we now have water for the courtyard gardens. Now that the gardens are watered on a timer each evening they have flourished! The other project, not quite completed, is replacing windows in the enclosed stairwell to the upstairs space. The window frames were water damaged causing leakage into the stairwell. We are still waiting for delivery and installation. The boiler broke down in early October. The broken part is still on order and fortunately is under warranty though the library will have to pay for installation. The library purchased 4 new computers: 2 for the staff and 2 for the public. The board decided not to replace all 4 public computers as their usage continues to decline and the 2 remaining terminals are still functioning.

Focusing on the values and goals developed in the Long Range Plan the board worked with the Town and community groups to increase awareness of library services. To that end the library expanded open hours during the Town's special events: Christmas on Main Street, Inlet Craft Show and Inlet Fall Festival. The library maintains membership in the IABA (Inlet Area Business Association) and hosted one of their monthly meetings in the library. The Library Director regularly attends IABA meetings and serves on event planning committees. The library obtained a museum pass for Adirondack Experience giving a 50% discount for 4 adults or 2 adults and all children aged 17 and under. The library is working with the IACTF (Inlet Area Community Task Force) housed in the Inlet Common School which closed as a school in 2019. This community wide group was established to create programs to utilize the building. The library is participating in this venture by providing books on gardening as they develop their outdoor community garden and indoor garden. The water testing kits received this summer were given to them for use by the children working on the garden. The IACTF has private workspace for online meetings and interviews. As the library has no private office space the Library Director made flyers and bookmarks referring patrons to the Inlet School after obtaining a keycard from the Town Information Office. Advertising in the Adirondack Express of new books/CDs/movies and events has been increased. In coordination with the Hamilton County Health Department COVID testing kits were made available. The Library Director continues to provide Notary Services.

The board spent time keeping up to date with increased rules, regulations, and expectations. Time was spent reviewing and approving the five standards established by the American Library Association and in reviewing, amending, and approving the 10 policies established for the operation of the Inlet Library as advised and directed by SALS. The Board reviewed the Open Meeting Law relating to video conferencing with the realization that the regulations are not compatible with our operation. Beginning in 2023 all trustees must attend a minimum of 2 hours of training, mostly via webinars which can be viewed on a home device or set up in the

library. In preparing for this Board members started attending webinars this year on a variety of topics. Nation wide there is an increase in book challenges. A committee of 3 board members and the Library Director developed a Collection Management Policy and Request for Reconsideration Form which the Board reviewed and approved.

The Library Director is continually examining the collection seeking ways to make materials more accessible. With a new labeler she is replacing labels with larger, more readable labels. Plans for next year include new flooring, replacement of some of the shelving, and combining the mystery and fiction books. Mystery and holiday books will have special stickers, so they are readily identifiable.

In summary, we may be a small. rural library but we are committed to providing the best library services to our community. Our community is very diverse consisting of approximately 300 year-round residents which more than triples in the summer with seasonal residents, and vacationers. People come to the library for many reasons. They come seeking books, CDs, and movies, to use the Wi-Fi or to charge their devices, for directions, for notary services, or just seeking a pleasant place to read, relax and socialize. Our library is successful due to the capability of Library Director Joanne Kelly, the three Library Assistants and the 11 Trustees who work together ensuring the best library practices are implemented. We would not be able to provide the services we do without the support of SALS and most particularly the Tech Department. The Board is, as always grateful for the support that the Town of Inlet provides. Both the officials and staff are always available to help us. And last, but not least, we are most grateful for our patrons for without them we would not exist.

Respectfully,

Mary Jane Lasher

Inlet Library board President