

**Shedd-Porter Library
Trustees Report for 2023
Written by Matt Saxton, Chair**

2023 saw our Library get back to something close to normal! It is good to be (almost) worry-free about Covid. Civil Conversation is on the third Saturday morning of each month, and Cinnamon Bun Saturday is on the last Saturday morning of each month. Come join us!

The continual monitoring of this beautiful building continues. We have had more success in getting contractors in 2023. Chris Morrill Painting scraped, sealed, and painted the window trim on two sides of the building. The remaining two sides will have the same treatment in the spring/summer. And, very exciting, work on the downstairs rest room began in December. Bellows Construction, in consultation with our Maintenance Committee and architect Ciaran Lavery, has designed a plan for the space that will make the dark, scary corner of the downstairs a bright and welcoming space. Matt Beam Plumbing and Heating installed the new toilet, which doesn't (like the old one) growl like a vicious beast! And the motion sensor lights installed by electrician John Allen are a great improvement. This project will be completed in the near future. We are grateful for the many donations to this project. Thank you all!

There is an interesting discussion underway about the roof. It involves the possibility of removing the entire second roof and re-establishing the original roof level. It is not yet decided if this idea is even feasible. More on this as it develops.

Some future building concerns, such as roof repair and/or replacement, as well as ADA access issues, would be beyond the Town's ability to pay for. So, we are working on the processes that are required by the few grant-funding organizations. LCHIP, and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (NHPA), are chief among these. LCHIP requires a Condition Assessment of the building as a first step. We thank the NHPA for awarding a grant to our Library to help with this. Someday we will be glad to stop thinking about the roof, and lack of proper ADA access. But that day is some long way distant.

In an effort to be ready for the future use of the library, trustee Kathy Torrey and Alyson, our cherished Librarian, have been working with the NH State Library on the statewide effort to encourage libraries to create a 5-year, update-able, plan for the more-and-more digital future. The goal is to keep our programs and services relevant, and to maintain and improve our historic building in an intentional and careful way.

25% of book checkouts now are downloaded to library users' electronic devices! Part of the Strategic Planning effort is collecting community input. A print survey was distributed, and a ZOOM evening was held. We are actively engaged in collecting YOUR ideas about what our Library is, what it should offer, and what the future should hold. Please communicate your ideas in any way or at any time that feels comfortable. See Alyson's Librarian's Report for more information about the great in-person activities happening at our library now.

A project was undertaken to formalize an agreement between the Library and the Town, as to which pays for what. For years and years, it has been generally understood that the Town pays to maintain the building, and the annual Library appropriation in the Town budget, Library income, and donations, pay for the staff and programs. This arrangement has now been fine-tuned and written down.

The roof continues to be maintained by Melanson's in Keene. There is a check of condition in spring, and another visit in the late fall, after the leaves are down. We Trustees thank Keith Hanatow for his attention to this project.

Shedd-Porter has received a \$10,000 NH Charitable Foundation Technology Grant for upgrades and additions to our technology. It includes more computers, a color copier, more outlets and charging stations, and many other modern improvements. We are grateful for this leap to greater usefulness!

Another grant came from the Mascoma Foundation, which is contributing to the restroom renovation. We are grateful to bid farewell to that nasty corner, and for the Mascoma Foundation's help!

The Reed Foundation (descendants of the Shedd and Porter families) is a stalwart supporter, and we are so very glad for the relationship! Most of the donations to the Library are under \$100. Some are a few hundred. Through the NH Charitable Foundation, we received a \$5000 anonymous donation. They all add up to something quite significant. Thank you! — to all our many friends!

We Trustees are grateful for the respect we have for each other, for the various useful talents we can offer, and for the talents and help provided by the Library community.

Thanks for your attention!
We'll see you at the Library!

Matt Saxton, chair
Susan Norlander, vice-chair
Carol Reller, Secretary
Karn McShane, treasurer
Kathy Torrey
Joe Levesque, alternate
Jeff Smull, alternate