

- **Partner Towns:** so far I have been to Select Board meetings at Pittston, West Gardiner, and Litchfield. All of them went really well and I had great conversations with the Select Board members. My focus has been on talking about the library “reconnecting” with communities after Covid, promoting the Digital Library services we offer, and reminding our partner towns that the money they pay for their residents to have access to the library goes towards library services, not to supporting the physical building itself. They liked hearing that!
- **Budget FY22-23:** Budget season for the City of Gardiner is coming up, and I've met with the Finance Director \_\_\_\_\_ to go over the library budget and to see how things are heading. I'm now working on my 2nd draft of the proposed library budget, and after that is done I will meet with LucyAnn again to go over numbers and finalize things. I am also writing a narrative section to explain every budget line, what we use it for at the library, and why I may be asking for an increase in some budget lines. This is not only good for me (it helps me understand the history of library funding) but I believe it will also be good for the City Council to see in greater detail how we operate. I believe honesty is the best policy.
- **Library Hours:** Restarting Saturday hours has been a hit with the community. I am still interested in us going back to having one evening open until 7:30pm, but I would like for us to get through Summer before we dive into that.
- **Children's Room:** This space is now open to the public every Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday, and by appointment only on Monday/Wednesday/Friday. We wanted to give families the option to visit when they wanted to but to also respect those who are still feeling anxious because of the Covid pandemic. This balance is working well.
- **Digital Library:** it's important for us to connect with our communities online, simply because that is a place where a lot of people are these days! I've been doing a lot of promotion around our Digital Library to show our community members that they can access a lot of library services through the internet.
- **Curtain Shop:** I met with the Waterville Curtain Shop in late February to discuss blinds for the Children's Room and also to get a quote for blinds behind the 1st Floor staff desk. For about 4 months out of the year it's very difficult for staff to see their computer screens because of the sun. I have yet to receive the quote but I will nudge them soon.
- **Donations & Book Sale:** for the moment, we have stopped accepting donations of used books, DVDs, etc. We just simply have run out of space. We are thinking about a donation based book sale in the Spring that will happen in the Hazzard Reading Room. I have also been in touch with Better World Books, a service that accepts book donations from libraries across the USA. These two things in combination should help us move along all of our donated and withdrawn library materials so that we can start fresh and move forward in a way that we can manage!
- **Brown Tail Moth Event:** On Saturday February 19, 2022 we hosted a free informational session and demonstration on how to remove browntail moths from trees with Maine Forest Service Entomologist Colleen Teerling. 15 people attended this event and we filmed it so that it can be viewed on our Facebook and YouTube page. We'd love to have more of these events in the future.
- **Summer Events:** We're just starting to wrap our heads around all things related to our Children's & Young Adult Summer Reading Program and the events we'll have during that time. We should have a schedule of events coming up in the next few months.
- **ME Dept of Labor Career Center:** I met with a representative of the ME Department of Labor Career Center to talk about their offerings on workshops related to job searching and resume building. I hope to bring them into the library soon so that these services can be offered to our community members at our location.