DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW: LIBRARY

FUNCTION:

The library's charge is outlined in statute and overseen by Library Trustees who are elected by the voters. Through the full-time Library Director and full time Children's Librarian/Assistant Director, plus 3 part-time staff members, and 2 Library Circulation Desk Clerks, the department serves an average of 155 people per day that we are open. In 2015, we had 10,334 people attend programs, from children through adults. Services provided to the community include computer and web access (8,082 people logged into the public computers in 2015 and many accessed our wireless Internet connection via their own laptops), outreach programs for youth and teens, summer reading programs, story time, author visits, adult art & crafting workshops, history & genealogy programs, natural history & wildlife programs, exam proctoring, museum passes, notary services, homebound book delivery, book delivery to the schools in town, and meeting space. We provide important family activities such as performers, STEAM related activities, and literacy building programs for all ages as well as a location for groups such as the Barrington Bloomers and other committees to meet.

The library also participates in the inter-library loan program helping to get our patrons materials we cannot afford to purchase, and loaning to other libraries as a reciprocal service. We are one of the busiest libraries in the state for ILL services. We are circulating 88,054 items yearly as of 2015. In 2015 we have approx. 3,800 registered patrons (about 44% of the population, and children under age 6 using the library are NOT counted in this number as they don't get cards until after that age) and our people counter noted 46,595 visits by citizens. We also provide downloadable materials such as e-books and audio books (8,528 items in 2015) Last year, at least 50% of registered card holders checked out items, and many more who did not check out materials, utilized program services, tech help, and public computers/wireless access.

With increasing demands for greater inventory, services, and meeting space, the library struggles to provide the level of service and materials requested by the community in the current facility. The library also plays an important role in providing access and information about Barrington and other local services for the community. Most recently, we have seen an increase in our program attendance and the requests for further adult educational opportunities, such as art classes, computer classes, and history/genealogy assistance. We are also by many people wishing to file taxes online who don't have access at home. We are also being utilized by the ECLC & new full day Kindergarten on a regular basis as a library resource for their students. Each kindergarten class comes weekly for story time and book selection. We provide multiple copies of books for middle school books groups, have our tech librarian teach students to utilize e-readers and downloadable books, and do school visits to inform children of statewide reading lists.

The library serves as the hub of the community, where people can meet, get to know one another, educate themselves and their families, and come together to discuss a wide array of topics.

Name Weare	Population 8836	Circulations 38,169	Per Capita \$22.09	Hour Open Per Week 37	Sq. Footage of Library 5,536
Seabrook	8768	43,169	\$57.67	42.5	19,000
Barrington	8759	88,054	\$33.33	49	3,740
Hampstead	8547	77,633	\$55.08	50	15,000
Franklin	8469	26,891	\$34.11	43	8,750
Northfield/Hall	8025	66,365	\$31.84	47.5	7,200

The above libraries have close populations to our own at this time. As you can see, our \$33.33 per capita budget for 2016 is well within the range of all these communities serving the same size populations (or larger in some cases) and we are circulating more items by far and have open hours that rival libraries with much larger budgets. If you look at a budget as a means to provide service, our incredible circulation stats show that our budget is serving a large contingent of the Town for very little money. (Stats from the 2014 Library Statistics Survey). 8759 Population for Barrington to Come Up with Per Capita Figure. Based Upon NH Office of State Planning Estimated Population for Barrington.

Many online databases we provide are currently provided by the State Library through Federal monies. Should funding be cut at the state level, we would have to pick up costs for those databases we wish to keep.

Thus far, for 2016, it looks like the ones we have currently will continue to be supported by the State. Our downloadable books consortium fee will increase and we are looking into further ways to expand digital collections/download/streaming services for content to patrons in the

In recent years, we have struggled to get staffing up to par. We feel we finally have a reasonable amount of help and must now focus on areas we have put aside each year in order to fund those staffing increases. We are focusing on increasing budget lines that directly affect what we can provide to patrons, such as materials, download services, programs, and space needs.