

Director's Report August 2026

Good vibes

On Facebook: Patron posted "Shout out to Hampstead Public Library. Always so awesome, especially over the summer. Events, summer reading, and notary services among other things, always coming through for kids and adults. Great service in town run by great people!"

Google reviews are coming in more frequently. 6 new 5 star reviews in the past 10 weeks. "Very clean with great children's selection and playroom"

- Hot water heater was replaced and I'm already noticing that the hot water is getting to the 2nd floor faster. We will need to add maintenance for that to our budget.
- Electric bill for August is 8.3% lower than last year! We used 640 fewer KWH, even though this year's avg temp was higher than last August. Yay for insulation and more efficient AC!
- Several vendors have started communicating that costs will be higher for the coming year. The State Library has started discussions with the libraries in NH about the coming costs for our Overdrive/Libby annual costs. To help understand, they shared that since 2019, there has been a 53% increase in digital reading circulation and a 63% increase in number of users. It's great that we're providing a service that patrons want but publishers are gouging libraries for pricing of digital titles.
- First water bill came in at \$332 for 3 weeks.
- I'm working with our fire alarm system vendor to get new sensors connected to the fire panel and to help protect the basement in case of leaks. There will be a sensor on the floor in the thrift shop that will be connected to our panic alarms. This will alert us at any time of the day if there is a leak in the water supply so we can resolve it right away. We are working with the Friends on this.
- I'll be going to training in September on a possible new system for the town's payroll and budgeting management. They are assessing different options.
- Been to several select board meetings where I share our fantastic statistics and highlight a couple big programs we offer to the community.
- Attended director's meeting for the Southern NH library Coop in Atkinson.
- Getting some new estimates from a vendor for regular maintenance on our AC/Furnaces and the new hot water heater, in hopes to reduce service fees. Always checking!
- Working on reviews for 2 staff in the past month.