

Every year the Ainsworth Public Library does its best to benefit the town's people that are the backbone of the library. Through your taxes (less than a hundred dollars a year for each taxpayer), the library offers free WIFI 24/7, free library cards and programming for adults and children, an extensive adult and youth section of books, use of public computers, audios, DVDs. The library offers over 500 free universal classes online and free passes to use state parks, museums, and historical sites. It is a place to check your email, send a fax, make copies. We even check out snowshoes!

Despite Covid, the library has been a busy place in 2021. We stayed open through curbside, appointments, and open days and served people in various ways. We offered winter and summer reading programs, monthly craft giveaways for youth, monthly book groups, and outreach programming. We teamed up with the WES school librarian to provide many events (visits to Onward in the summer, dragon scavenger hunt, Halloween book giveaway, and more). This year, we received several grants, allowing us to purchase: a new electric sign (the sign will install it in the Spring), a new bench for the library, snowshoes, Covid supplies, new technology for faster, more efficient wifi, and sponsored online programming. The trustees continue to work on the parking issue at the library; there still is not a designated space for the handicap.

The library is an essential part of the community; it serves as an information hub and a place for equal access to information. We have over 1,000 active patrons of all ages and needs. This year the Selectboard decided to take our budget out of the general ledger and have it be an article on its own. We were a separate article in 2019. In 2020, we were put back in the general fund. You will find an increase in our budget from last year that reflects the state's decision to increase the minimum wage in January 2022, which affects four of our five employees. The Trustees did not raise any other parts of the budget. Even with the increase, the cost of the library for each taxpayer is less than \$100 a year for all of the free services that are offered. On behalf of the library, we would like to thank the voters for their support in helping to keep the library such an integral part of the community. Please visit the website www.Ainsworthpubliclibrary.org or look for us on Facebook for pictures, library information and upcoming events.

Stay Safe!

~Sarah Snow Ainsworth Public Library Director