Children’s Librarians of New Hampshire
Thursday, April 16th, 2020
Virtual Informal Meeting
Minutes Compiled by Moriah Churchill-Calkins
based on the recorded meeting provided by Azra Palo

In Attendance: Azra Palo (President/ Nesmith Library), John Locke (Vice-President/President Elect/ Meredith Public Library), Sam Lucius (Past-President/ Wiggin Memorial Library), Kris Murphy (NERTCL Representative/Nashua Public Library, Deborah Dutcher (NH State Library) Nancy Sheridan (Great Stone Face Co-Chair /Colby Memorial Library) Lisa Kleinmann (Membership Chair/ Durham Public Library)

Not Present: Molly Pevna (Treasurer/Website Editor/Nesmith Library), Moriah Churchill-Calkins (Secretary /Richards Free Library)

Quorum Achieved

NHLA: They aren’t sure how NELA is going to happen in the fall; there may be lower attendance; the possibility exists of holding it in NH in 2022. Sam added that the conference will most likely be entirely virtual and an emergency meeting will be held soon. We don’t know about the virtual platform or what fees will look like yet. The NHLA budget did pass, with the new logo being pushed off for another year.

NERCTL: What will a NERTCL conference look like? Maybe smaller conferences in each state, maybe virtual. Everything is still very much up in the air.

We are not sure what CLNH’s role in conferences will be. We would have a difficult time trying to plan a whole new fancy conference over the summer while children’s librarians are trying to plan new virtual summer reading programs.

Together Talks with Debbi Dutcher: She’s had 30, 40, 50 people in each talk. She is putting all the information from the talks into her blog which has been incredibly helpful. Lori is talking to Mike about the statewide collaboration for virtual programming with ReadSquared. Beanstack is 50% more expensive and ReadSquared really seems like the option from talks with other states, with a 1-2 week set up time versus 6-8 weeks in Beanstack for ½ of the sites available. Azra noted that any option to help us right now would be a blessing. That decision is now up to Mike and Lori.

Debbi has talked to the CSLP group that has been formed to help with virtual summer reading programs, and they are almost 100% promising resources by the end of the month. They are making it a top priority.
Azra suggested that perhaps CLNH can help with promotion and perhaps with how-tos to help with any technology learning curves.

Debbi has been posting webinars to help us with summer reading; some that the MA youth state librarian, April Mazza, has provided, including webinars about summer programming, and other webinars from Colorado.

**Great Stone Face:** They don’t want to reinvent the wheel, so they are not going to create a new facebook page, and post to the CLNH facebook page and potentially also the website.

  **Action items: Sam will add Lucia to the facebook page**

They were able to get access to most of the books that they needed, thankfully. They are meeting again on the 24th to come up with the new list, they will have a private release on April 24th to allow librarians to order the books. Tiffany Meyer will post to the school library listserv. If they send the list to our listserv, how soon does the email get sent? Debbi is the one to approve posts to the listserv, and agreed to look out for it. They can also send the list to Molly to post to the website.

  **Action Items: Molly will add this to the website.**

The public release will be May 8th, when the video and text of the book talks will be released, with a nice presentation. The physical materials (bookmarks etc) will be available later. Individual book talks will be available on youtube in order to be conveniently shareable to the public.

Online voting for the 2020 winner: They have made a google online voting site which will go live on May 1st and continue to be live through the month of May. That link will be distributed as widely as possible via our listservs, facebook, and the website.

Really well done, Great Stone Face Committee! You all rock!

**Discussion about Summer Reading Plans:**

We discussed the state of summer reading plans and how they are likely to be affected by the virus quarantine, and what we know so far. Points of discussion included:

- Many libraries will have virtual kick-offs in June rather than in-person kickoffs
- Performers are starting to reach out to libraries to share their virtual plans
- Will social-distanced but in-person programs be possible with limited numbers of patrons over the summer?
- We have to keep in mind that parents have to limit screen time for children.
- In virtual meetings of even book groups that meet regularly, we have found that people/families are OVERWHELMED right now with meetings and goals and distance learning. However, the limited structure that distance learning has provided will end for summer, so we will need to provide things. Ideas may include videos of projects you can take away to do on your own time, so patrons can see quickly how to do the project, and then go do it more flexibly.
• Balancing programs relying on video and technology with not pushing too much screen time is going to be a really delicate balancing act.

• Azra reminded us that someday this will end, and we as librarians need to try to be standing in one piece at the end of it so we can serve people then; so in the meantime, we need to be careful to practice self-care.

• Some libraries still do not have budgets, and there continues to be real concern about part time staff.

• Most of us are logging hours for our libraries. While at first it seems annoying, it means we can prove to our towns how much we have done. Also it can have some positive effects on mental health to see everything that you’ve accomplished.

• Some of us aren’t even thinking about summer really yet. John had summer reading all planned, but now everything is up in the air. We don’t want to cancel things prematurely, but balancing that with being prepared to make changes is another challenge.

**Re-Opening:**
Lori Fisher at the state library has formed a group to prepare for reopening in 6 different stages. She has said to plan for social distancing for quite some time. The recommendations will include things like every other computer being available, using plexi-glass barriers, etc.

We discussed some of the issues we’ll face in the process of reopening:

• There are going to be people who are comfortable in the library and others who are not--for both patrons and staff.

• One of our difficulties if adjusting our mission as libraries. We try so hard to make libraries be such welcoming places to recreate and meet for all kinds of reasons, where people can come to hang out. Now all of that has changed.

• Some of us are attempting to keep our children’s rooms closed even after reopening, for some time.

• Maybe we can hold programs outside for families?

• What will the process look like for items coming back-- what are the best methods to quarantine and clean materials? We are hoping for guidelines on this.

• Will we limit the number of patrons allowed in the building?

• Will masks be mandatory? Masks can help the librarian who doesn’t know they are sick from spreading it, but they will not really help librarians not catch it unless the patrons are required to wear masks.

With so many questions and uncertainties, we will have to just do the best we can right now, because that’s all we can do.

**Budget:**
We got a full refund for our deposit at the Common Man, with no problems. We discussed the possibility of using that money to good purpose. We discussed donating to the Summer Learning Grants as well as paying for 2021’s CSLP manuals since we do not know if the Bruins will pay for them this time.
We will discuss this again next month when Molly is with us. We discussed the idea of creating a fund or giving mini-grants to our members. We are eager to help in the ways that we can.

KBA and summer learning grants deadlines have been pushed out to May 15th, but already there are many more applications than can be funded. People have some very creative ideas for summer learning grants!

We discussed that giving money to the summer learning grant to help fund more of those could be the best use of our funds. We will discuss this again when we have more board members present and put this to a vote soon.

Debbi will keep us in the loop with regard to the state funding the Readsquared tracking software for summer reading. It is looking promising.

The next meeting will be May 7th at 1:00.