



Director's Report

February 16, 2022

Since arriving on February 1st I've spent my time at the library getting to know the staff, the patrons, and members of the community. I've also begun the work of acquainting myself with the collections, the day-to-day operations, and the administrative – well – terra incognita. I'm steadily making my way through the paper and digital files to get a handle on the library's administrative record, taking time to clean things up and discover any significant gaps in the records kept by my predecessor. Much of this will lay the groundwork for a policy audit, to make sure we have all essential policies in place and that all policies in place are up-to-date. So far, however, the most valuable thing has been the time I've spent with staff listening to their thoughts about the library and learning about their individual roles. There is still a lot of listening to do, but my impression is that we have a tremendously talented and dedicated staff looking for clear support from their director.

In the community, I have spent time on Main Street speaking with business owners and have met with a handful of community members, including Megan Henry from the Catskill Food Pantry; Jeff Friedman from the Community Center and Chamber of Commerce; Chief Darling and Lieutenant Frascello from the police department; and all village board members at the last meeting, where – thanks to Helene – I was able to introduce myself. I also have plans to meet with Jon Palmer from the Green County Historical Society as well as people from Foreland and the Thomas Cole House, to name just a few.

Additionally, I have been getting to know my Mid-Hudson Library System colleagues and have participated in an annual report workshop, grant writing webinar, director's association meeting, new director's orientation, and an overview of the Sierra ILS software.

It should also be noted, for the historical record, that on Saturday, February 5th, the new director chipped and scraped and shoveled ice from the library steps. The ice was thick, the sun weak, and the director tired.